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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Marcos burial issue divides Ilocanos

By Cristina Arandain
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—A MILLION signatures may move President Macapagal-Arroyo into allowing

Solons tell bishops: Respect House vote

By Philip C. Tubeza and Christine F. Esguerra

AMONG "THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE IS THE voice of God," administration lawmakers on the urged Philippine Catholic Church leaders to respect the House decision to quash the impeachment complaint against President

Monday, September 12, 2005 | 44 pages | vol. 29 | no. 274
www.inq7.net

Pacquiao lifts RP spirits

Fil-Am, Boholano boxers also KO foes in Los Angeles

FILIPINO would Steve Earthquake Agudao, 29, face the penalty of death by hanging in Singapore. —PDI

LOS ANGELES—FILIPINO BOXing idol Manny Pacquiao stopped Mexican Hector Velazquez with a technical knockout in the sixth round of a scheduled 12-round super featherweight bout to cap an explosive Philippine boxing show at the Staples Center here on Saturday.

Filipinos from Ilocos, raised in Mexico by Ilocano parents from Pangasinan, earlier captured the World Boxing Council light flyweight crown with a unanimous 12-round knockout of defending champion Eric Ortiz of Mexico.

And 20-year-old Boholano Boy "Boom Boom" Bradero more than lived up to his growing reputation as the new Pacquiao by blasting out Colombian Pedro Flores Mendoza in one minute and 22 seconds of the third round of their eight-round encounter.

It was the 17th straight win—and the 10th inside the distance—for Bradero, who is the reigning World Boxing Organization-Asia Pacific featherweight champion.

The impressive string of victories was the first for the Filipino fighters in an international card in the United States, and President Macapagal-Arroyo promptly congratulated the three boxers, calling them superb ambassadors of Filipino [illegible].

It was "a triple victory for us," said Malacañang in Manila.

"The nation rejoiced at Manny Pacquiao's victory," she said in a statement in Filipino. "God bless! my prayers that he win . . . Ms. Apple is the fighter of all Filipinos."

The light featherweight world by Pinoplaw, Vilorio and Bradero provided Filipinos with a welcome respite from the months-long political crisis back home. (See related story on Page A-4.)

As expected, it was Pacquiao who faced the spotlight first. Pacquiao, who definitely kept his end of the bargain in a sparkling comeback match in January with Mexican Erik Morales.

The pride of General Santos City trapped Velazquez against the ropes three times in the sixth round, finally bringing him to his knees in the fourth second.

The referee began the count, and Velazquez slowly stood up but could not continue and another four seconds later, the referee waved the fight over and stopped.

Morales was later upset by former US Olympian Zahir Raheem via a 12-round unanimous decision in the consistent of the same card dubbed "Double Trouble."

US promoter Top Rank, however, said the Jan. 21 Morales-Pacquiao rematch was still on. (See Sports, Page A26.)

Pacquiao came out deadly in the first two rounds as the two-time Olympian, who last year his last five bouts, stunned him several times with right hands to the head.

MARQUEZ, p. —

THE PHILIPPINES' Top boxer Manny Pacquiao (right) delivers a hardhit to the face of Mexico Velazquez of Tijuana, Mexico, during the first round of their World Boxing Council super featherweight bout at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Pacquiao won by sixth-round technical knockout. —AP

PILAR Rolan Vilorio of Pinoplaw, Manila, raises the Philippine flag in celebration after his first-round knockout of Eric Ortiz of Mexico City during their WBC light flyweight championship bout, also at Staples Center. Vilorio's parents hail from Ilocos Sur. —AP

Pinay maid in grisly slay charged in S'pore court

SINGAPORE—[illegible] admitted and broke into tears when she was charged in court yesterday with murdering a companion and dismembering her body.

Filipina maid Joan Gultiao Agudao, 29, a mother of two from Negros City, faces the mandatory penalty of death by hanging if found guilty of murdering Lim Hwee-gim in Pasir Ris, 26, also a Filipina maid, from Bicol Visayas.

In Manila, the Department of Foreign Affairs said it was sending representatives with the Singaporean government and pledged to provide legal assistance to both Agudao and the family of the victim.

The gruesome murder brought back echoes of the case of maid Flor Contemplacion, who was hanged in Singapore's Changi Prison in 1995 for the death of companion Delia Maga and Mateo's 4-year-old Singaporean [illegible].

Contemplacion's execution triggered a brief diplomatic row between Manila and Singapore and widespread protests by Filipinos, who blamed their government for not moving fast enough

PAGE A6

House vote shows deep divisions in country

By Armando Doronila

THE HOUSE VOTE TO DISMISS the three impeachment complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo has left a wealth of observations in the political landscape. Interest by what seem banks like the [illegible] of New Orleans wrecked by Hurricane Katrina.

The result transformed the political map that shows party realignments breached by crossovers in the dominant vote. The widening new wills in people [illegible] The victory of Sen Mr Arroyo was able to survive the impeachment over the [illegible]. It underlines the fragility and unstable base of parties and political alliances.

ANALYSIS

The issue of quashing the cases had such a seismic impact that the vote left in its wake deep divisions in the political parties, to the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy, as well as to the militant movement in the streets still pressing for the President's resignation.

The resistance of party lines illustrates the triumph of divide and rule as a formula for political survival. Although the President has survived the challenge, the vote leaves the country so deeply and bitterly divided so over, not

(CONTINUED ON PAGE A-2)

Tirol named PDI readers' advocate

TIROL: Rojelio PDI family

VALDES: Prom EVP to EVP

Filipinos will pay more for goods and services

Energy crisis forces lifestyle change all over RP

By the PDI Staff and PDI Bureaus

[Five of seven]

SPECIAL REPORT

Project Editor
Fernando del Mundo

FROM BASEBED IN THE NORTH to Zamboanga in the south, Filipinos are reeling from the high cost of fuel.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2005

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Vehicle number-coding lifted today

By Tarra V. Quismundo

EFFECT MORE PERMIT VEHICLES on metro roads today as the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has given the number-coding traffic ordinance scheme a takeoff in the face of the scheduled nationwide transport strike.

"We've decided to lift coding today so we could help commuters. They are our primary concern," said MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna in a phone interview yesterday.

MMDA officials made the decision to suspend the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP) as transport groups signified their intention to push through with the transport strike on the first day of the workweek.

A traffic control scheme, the UVVRP reduces the number of vehicles plying metro streets by roughly 20 percent by barring cars from travelling on certain days based on the last digits of their license plates.

As in the past, today's strike will be a show of indignation by jeepney operators and drivers against soaring fuel prices. The stoppage is aimed at paralyzing jeepney routes in Metro Manila and key cities throughout the country.

"We are neither looking down or not being too anxious about the strike. We just have to be prepared for it, although we don't believe that it would have much effect. We just don't want to be caught by surprise," said Lacuna.

The MMDA did get surprised during the last massive transport strike on April 18, when it was compelled to lift the number-coding hours after public transport paralysis was felt in some areas of the metropolis, particularly in routes within Manila and the northern Metro Manila cities.

RP-wide transport strike to protest high fuel prices

By Luige A. del Puerto, Philip C. Tubeza and Edwin C. Tumibay Jr.

DESCRIBING IT AS THEIR "send-off rally" for President Macapagal-Arroyo who is leaving for the US, militant groups will stage a nationwide transport strike today to protest the skyrocketing prices of fuel and to demand her resignation.

The militant Pinaghusang Samahan ng Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (Piston), an affiliate of Gilasang Mayo Uno, is spearheading the transport strike in Metro Manila and various parts of the country.

Organizers said the protest actions will be held simultaneously in Baguio, Cagayan Valley, Pangasinan, Central Luzon, Metro Manila, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Panay, Cebu, Davao City, Soccsargen, Cagayan de Oro City, Cotabato and the Caraga region.

Piston said drivers could no longer stand the continued rise in the price of fuel.

Pinoy claims to have more than 200,000 members nationwide.

"We want the United Nations to see the clear message of Filipino workers ... We are united to say dispet at the Arroyo administration," the 2000 said in a statement.

Prelude to bigger strike

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran said today's transport strike will be a prelude to a Welgang Bayan or nationwide strike by workers from different sectors of the economy against the Arroyo administration.

Beltran and fellow Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano will join the striking drivers at the Welcome Rotonda in Quezon City at 6 a.m. today.

To lessen the impact of the strike in the metropolis, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has suspended the implementation of the number-coding scheme. *(See story at left)*

Police in Metro Manila and in the provinces were placed on full alert at 8 p.m. Sunday.

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao yesterday appealed to jeepney drivers joining the strike to "respect the rights of others."

He said strikers should not force or intimidate fellow drivers who do not join the strike.

Police buses, trucks

Lomibao said the National Capital Region Police Office would deploy police buses and trucks to ferry stranded passengers.

In Cebu City, members of the militant Magkahiusang Drayber sa Inglis (Madsi) in Metro Cebu will join today's transport stoppage dubbed "Tigil Pasada."

Jose Abella, chair Anthony Pagsolo and Regina Adoracion Bolalayan (Bayan) General Thompson-front Jaime Paglinawan clarified that today's protest activity would not be considered a transport strike.

"We are not aiming to paralyze Metro Cebu's transport system. We are just urging our members to join the protest from 4 a.m. to noon today," Pagsolo said.

Paglinawan said the participants of today's Huwang Bpatse will hold a protest caravan at 10 a.m. around Cebu City's main thoroughfares before converging on Colon Street for a final rally until noon.

Other militant groups joining the protest activity include Gabriela, Anakpawis and Kilusan ng mga Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Paglinawan said.

Courtesy cards

To counter the strike, Cebu City Councilor Gerardo Carillo said the city government would distribute pink meals and courtesy cards to drivers who would not join the stoppage. The "courtesy card" can be used to assist a bus if a driver is apprehended for a traffic violation.

Carillo said they will deploy 20 city-owned buses and 60 multicabs and barangay tricycles to ferry stranded passengers.

Students in also calling on Negrenses to join the strike set from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. today.

The strike is being spearheaded by the United Negros Drivers Operators Center. Its secretary-general Jessie Ortega said they expect about 80 percent of public transportation in Negros Occidental to join in. But The Federation of Bacolod City Drivers Associations is not joining the strike.

In Cagayan de Oro City the Solidarity Transport Alliance in Northern Mindanao said public utility jeepneys belonging to the group would not ply their routes today.

But other groups such as the Transport Federation of Cagayan de Oro (Tudeco) have adopted a wait-and-see attitude. *With reports from Rhamses Magsalayan and Carla P. Gomez, Phil Vinzon Barroso, Jude Alipala, Grace Alfonso, Anthony Alfeche, Agatha Tomio, Sofy Quiroz and Ferdinand Zaniuda, PDI Mindanao Bu-*

With Gloria away, Noli is in charge

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday reprimed confidence Vice President Noli de Castro would do a good job of running the country while she is away.

In a televised appearance on the eve of her departure for the United States, Ms Arroyo said she would leave the government in the "good hands" of de Castro.

"Ako ang tiwala ko na magiging maayos ang takbo sa atin ni Vice President Noli de Castro. I am confident everything will run smoothly under Vice President Noli de Castro," she said.

The President is set to leave tonight on a commercial flight to attend several meetings at the United Nations, the highlight of which will be the Security Council meeting on Sept 14 over which she will preside. She will be back in Manila on Sept 17.

"Maglalakbay ako sa United Nations dala ng mandato ng sambayanan at will travel to the United States carrying the mandate of the people," the President said in the statement she read on government television.

In New York, the President will meet with world leaders in finance, among other things. Her global fight against terrorism and the Philippine bid for lasting peace in Mindanao.

Ms Arroyo is also expected to meet with 40 leaders of top US companies like Ford Motor Company and Dell. She will also attend the Investors' Forum, where she would have the chance to meet with fund managers and traders. (With files from Associated

Pacquiao lifts RP spirits

The Filipino rallied and dominated the next three rounds, delivering punishing hooks to Márquez's ribs. The southpaw Pacquiao staggered Márquez late in the fifth round with a left to the face that brought the crowd, filled with Pacquiao's Filipino fans, to its feet.

Ahead in scores

Pacquiao won the last three rounds on all three judges' scorecards. When the fight was stopped, he was ahead 49-46, 48-47 and 49-46.

Pacquiao improved to 46-3-2 (won-lost-draw) with 35 knockouts; Márquez, 38, of Tijuana, Mexico, dropped to 42-11-2 with 37 knockouts. Both fighters weighed 130.26 (58.13kg).

The fight was for the WBC International super featherweight championship, the same title that was at stake when Morales dominated Pacquiao in March.

Morales gave up the belt to seek the WBC International lightweight title against Rahoma.

The international title is disputed by fighters outside the WBC's top 15 ratings. Boxing observers say the WBC holds International championship bouts so it can earn "sanction" fees.

Paul McCoy

However, the title that Viloria picked up at Ortiz's expense was the real Mc-Coy.

Viloria climbed the ring waving the Philippine flag and wearing gold and green trunks with the RP-exercise stitched in tri-left front. His handlers draped him with the flag after the win.

Viloria and Ortiz had a few brief exchanges early in the first round, but neither was especially aggressive and both looked to be settling in for a long fight.

But the 24-year-old Viloria connected with a pair of overhand rights to Ortiz's jaw that floored the Mexican in the final second. Ortiz did not get up until well after the bell.

"Mabuhay ang Pilipinas. Mahal ko nadal ko ang Philippines. Aloha, Hawaii," said Viloria as he talked about his victory on television.

Although he represented the United States in the 2000 Olympics, Viloria, who grew up in Waipahu, Hawaii, declared in a recent interview that he remained 100 percent Filipino and would fight from heaven as a Filipino.

Now unbeaten in 16 fights with 12 KOs, Viloria said he did not expect the easy win, noting that it was rare for a championship to be decided in the first round and that Ortiz was no pushover.

Power of fists

But the awesome power of his fists was unproved.

In his last fight in May, Viloria bored Rubeo Contreras to quit in the sixth round and his 30-year-old foe from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, had a seizure soon after. He needed surgery to stop a hemorrhage caused by brain.

Contreras was in a coma but has made significant progress. Accepting Viloria's invitation, he attended Saturday's fight and was at stadside, giving him a thumbs-up.

"I dedicate this fight to Rubeo Contreras," Viloria said.

Ortiz dropped to 24-5-1 with 16 KOs.

Bitch reports from AP and Sabrina L. Laguindey, Court/Sunstar

FILIPINO fans of Manny Pacquiao rejoice after their idol defeated Hector Velazquez of Mexico in a match televised from Los Angeles.

Hero's welcome in Narvacan, General Santos

THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF GENERAL SANTOS is preparing another hero's welcome for Manny Pacquiao, who stopped Mexican boxer Velazquez by technical knockout in the sixth round of a 12-round super featherweight bout in Los Angeles.

Sky Gallegos, chair of the amateur boxing group in General Santos, said Pacquiao's victory and the wins of Filipino-American boxer Brian Viloria and Rey Bautista of Bohol were closely relied from the political squabbles plaguing the country.

For a while, at least, Filipinos forgot about politics, he said.

"The three ring fighters gave us a break from the drudgery of seemingly never-ending political bickering," Gallegos said.

"Manny Pacquiao deserves another hero's welcome for lifting the spirits and morale of the Filipino people," he said.

If General Santos was rejoicing over Pacquiao's victory, the people of Narvacan town in Ilocos Sur had their own reason to cheer.

One of their own, Viloria, cleared the eight-pound when he matched the World Boxing Council light flyweight crown from Ivan Ortiz of Mexico with a sensational first-round knockout, also in the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Saturday (Sunday in Manila).

"We are very proud of Viloria. (His victory) is an honor and pride for Narvacan," Mayor Edgardo Zaragoza told the Inquirer.

Viloria was born in Hawaii, but his parents brought him to Narvacan when he was 6 months old.

Viloria returned to Hawaii with his parents when he turned 5.

His father Benjamin is a native of Barangay San Jose in Narvacan, while his mother Rosemarie hails from Santa Maria town.

Zaragoza said a resolution recognizing Viloria's achievements would be passed by the municipal council this week.

A similar resolution to be sponsored by Zaragoza's son, Board Member Isabel Zaragoza, will be filed before the provincial board on Tuesday.

The mayor said Viloria was the first world boxing champion from Narvacan. Aquilino Zarate, *PDI Bloodstone Bureau*, and Leonelo Bullos Jr., *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

RP, US officials recall 9/11 victims in Manila Bay rites

By Nikko Dizon

FILIPINO AND AMERICAN officials raised flowers into Manila Bay yesterday to remember the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States and renew their pledge to fight terrorism.

At ceremonies led by Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rafael Seguis, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and US Charge d'Affaires Daniel Johnson, several Filipino officials and US Embassy staffers offered prayers for the victims of the attacks four years ago.

"On this day we add our promise to all peace-loving nations and peoples, never to forget the heroism, and never to falter in the fight," Seguis said. "The terrorists did not count on the courage, the bravery and the indomitability of those they thought they could intimidate and threaten," (See story in The Wire Up, Page A15)

Atienza urged the public to do its share in helping prevent terrorist in their communities and appealed for cooperation with the local police and the city government.

"Sept. 11 is not about America or any other one country. It is about all of us, the threat that we all have, but more importantly about the humanity that all of us share in common," Johnson said in his brief speech. "In the end, sooner or later, it is that shared humanity that will triumph over terrorism."

The program was marked by the poignant ringing of a bell. The officials then threw white roses into Manila Bay in commemoration of the victims of terrorism.

Aside from the victims of the 9/11 attacks, Johnson also took time to remember the victims of terrorism in the Philippines, particularly those of the Superferry bombing and the Valentine's Day attack in February.

"The fact that all of us are threatened by terrorism actually points to something very positive. It helps us to realize how much we have in common, how connected we are to each other," Johnson said. WITH AFP

Pinoys warned against seeking jobs in Macau

MACAU MAY BE A PARADISE FOR tourists, but not for jobseekers.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas warned Filipinos planning to go to Macau as tourists with the intention of looking for jobs not to be enticed by unscrupulous recruiters or agencies. They could end up in out-workers, she said.

Sto. Tomas cited a report by Macau based labor attaché Carlos Sta. Ana, who said many Filipinos were arriving there as tourists and were finding it difficult to find jobs in the Chinese peninsula.

According to Sta. Ana's report, tourists are allowed to stay in Macau 30 days. During this time, they become vulnerable to people offering to look for jobs for them in exchange for money. But the jobs seldom materialize.

Sto. Ana said those who run out of money are forced to sell their passports and unused return tickets to unscrupulous Filipinos.

Some resort to theft or do odd chalk, while others go to mainland China to get a 37-day visa extension and look for jobs there, he said.

Sto. Tomas explained that despite the booming economy of Macau, Filipinos would have a hard time finding jobs there because the Chinese prefer to hire workers from the mainland.

"It is very risky for tourists to look for employment in Macau since they can easily be caught by immigration," she said in a statement.

Filipinos who want to work in Macau should also verify the existence of the job offers with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, she said.

Macau, a former Portuguese colony that became the Macau Special Administrative Region of China in 1999, China's socialist economic system is not practiced there, but the "one country, two systems" policy is in an open economy and is enjoying rapid growth with the expansion of its tourism industry. Lolita B. Salmorin

THIS DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 12, 2005
24th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Tim 2: 1-8
Gospel: Luke 7: 1-10

When Jesus had finished teaching to the people, he went to Capernaum.

There was a captain whose servant was very sick and near to death, a man very dear to him. So when he heard about Jesus, he sent some elders of the Jews to persuade him to come and save his servant's life. The elders came to Jesus and begged him earnestly, saying, "He deserves this of you, for he loves our people and even built a synagogue for us."

Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the captain sent friends to give this message, "Sir, do not trouble yourself for I am not worthy to welcome you under my roof. You see I did not approach you myself. Just give the order and my servant will be healed. For I myself, a junior officer, give orders to my soldiers and I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to other, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant 'Do this,' and he does it."

On hearing these words, Jesus was filled with admiration. He turned and said to the people with him, "I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith." The people sent by the captain went back to his house, there they found that the servant was well.

Commentary

Jesus turns from preaching and goes to Capernaum where he has on the road. It was in the Roman military hours of Jesus and sends the Jewish elders to him. Though he was a Samaritan was good standing he obviously had good relations with the community, even building their synagogue for them. He sends an message. He do not trouble yourself Sir I am not worthy to welcome you under my roof" And yet He order and He will be done. Jesus is stunned. Faith can be found even here! This servant, mentor of the people and he praises him and rejoices in his request. Then do we work before inviting Eucharist. We are there by ourselves first on behalf of another in need. Do we seek with this kind of attention for Jesus' order? Has Jesus ever had good reason to be stunned by the depth and expression of our faith in him?

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Solons tell bishops: Respect House vote

By Marlon Ramos

Representative Marcelino Libanan of Eastern Samar and Suhaimi Barzaga of Davao Sur joined the call after some members of the Influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines expressed resentment over the Sept. 8 vote in the House sanctioning the move to impeach Mr Arroyo.

"We [again], we did, the voice of the people is the voice of God," Libanan said in a statement. "The representatives of our people have spoken and their decision now to uphold the justice committee. We urge our Church leaders to respect that, coming as it did from either, but such collective decision of the House majority whose members are elected representatives of our people."

"This is now part of history. Let us respect the will of the majority of the representatives of our people," Barzaga said.

Libanan said Bautista are not the chairs of the justice committee which recommended the impeachment complaints. The House majority adopted the committee recommendation.

The CBCP's permanent council is to meet in Manila beginning tomorrow amid a reported split in the powerful Roman Catholic hierarchy. The 12-member council is the policy-making body of the 139-strong CBCP when it is not in plenary session.

The bishops has learned that a CBCP faction is meeting for the formulation of a more definitive Church stand on the "political impasse" in the country.

A Church source said the group would most likely issue an analysis of the political situation and present this to the council.

"This group appears to be not receptive to the seemingly restrictive stance of the July CBCP statement," the source said.

He said the group was very vocal that the current CBCP stand needed a clearer response in the most serious political crisis to hit the 4-year-old Arroyo administration.

In the July statement, the CBCP presented an all-encompassing response to the political scandal dominating demands to oust Mr Arroyo while saying these were not against the Gospel.

Split in CBCP

The source did not identify bishops sympathetic to the faction, saying its statement was "lead for the CBCP." He said there was a perception that the current CBCP leadership was biased. "The means that there really is a split in the ranks as far as the theological situation is concerned."

Jaro Archbishop Fernando Capalla, the outgoing CBCP president, has been criticized by his peers for his alleged backlash attitude toward the political situation. They see this as a result of his supposed closeness to Mr Arroyo.

In a previous interview, Capalla said the prelate might have been drawn out of his comfortzone to open communication lines both with the administration and the opposition and start a dialogue.

Last week, he said a shift from the July 8 CBCP statement won't happen "in my lifetime," despite the outrage caused by administration congressmen's decision to junk the impeachment. This position did not sit well with a faction of the CBCP, the source said.

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra, who is an ally to the new rich in his diocese more than a month ago, on Saturday confirmed reports that some 20 to 30 bishops were to attend a "special meeting" today to reassess the CBCP position.

In a text message, Capalla pertinent said "bishops do regularly meet outside of the permanent council meetings and the plenary assemblies."

He said "it will be one of those ordinary regular meetings, not an official meeting specially commissioned either by the conference or by the permanent council."

Said curiously, it will not have the color of partisan politics as some people would like to think," he said.

In his statement, Bautista said he was hopeful that the CBCP council would not be partisan in fact, for the people "not to let themselves be used as partisan politics, to uphold the rule of law and used enlightenment on key issues like the outgoing calls from the opposition."

He noted that Mr Arroyo had since submitted herself to the constitutional process and initiated electoral reforms to improve governance.

"As we recall, the CBCP in their prayerfully discerned collective decision did not demand the President's resignation, neither did it encourage her simply to dialogue such a call from others. The CBCP had also emphasized that the ill-fated no-impeachment vote was not against the Gospel," said Bautista.

President heeded bishops

Bautista said Mr Arroyo heeded the CBCP's position by submitting herself to the constitutional process and by even standing out to face the issues in the spirit of sanity and reconciliation. "Despite the hostile manner and black propaganda attacks of these personalities."

He urged Church leaders to consider the decision of the committee being majority of House members who dismissed the impeachment complaints against the President on the basis of the success of the Junior panel's hearings and there were countless issues that Mr Arroyo had to address.

Bruno Blissett, leader Pamalo Escudero, interviewed in Tacloban City yesterday, expressed hope the CBCP would change its stand and would renew ranks into the chance for the President to resign.

"My counsels really deny that fact that the CBCP's support is very nominal. He just hope that they will change on their previous positions and join us in calling for the President to resign," Escudero said.

On Saturday, Archbishop Romano Antonio of Pampanga told the Church "would not be intimidated."

"The mission of the Church is to lead the people to be in unity with God," he said. Long-time public told 3,000 lay leaders in the City of San Fernando, Sinapo, he said, would continue to speak on the moral aspects of social, political, economic and cultural issues because "truth is what the Church must tell us."

In his 30-minute homily, he made no reference either to Mr Arroyo or Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago who last week urged priests not to meddle in politics but to focus on their "real mandate."

Bishop Antonio, a member of the CBCP's permanent council, said the Church "cannot be intimidated by anybody."

"We are not afraid to speak on the moral aspects of social, political, economic and cultural issues because truth is what the Church must tell us," he said.

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"We are not afraid to speak on the moral aspects of social, political, economic and cultural issues because truth is what the Church must tell us," he said. **With reports from Norman Bordadora, Tarra Quismundo, Ira Cinco, Hector Barges and Joy Cabbiat, PDI Visayas Bureau, Tonnie Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Bea Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

House vote shows Manila, rural opinion gap

From page A1

has legitimacy remains under a cloud.

His moves divided her opponents, but the way it was done—about enough majority calm—left so much room that there are serious doubts whether she could govern effectively in the medium term. She has won the vote although her credibility and that of the impeachment process has been badly damaged.

The table (PDI Sept. 3, 2004) at how the House voted shows that:

• Lakas is still the dominant and the largest bloc in the House majority. It displayed its numbers to power the chastised "yes" vote, except for four who failed to vote, two abstentions, and four who voted "no."

• Twenty-two from the Liberal Party voted "yes," while 12 voted "no," despite the fact that the party led by Senate President Franklin Drilon had called for the President's resignation and had pressured the issue so urgently, if she did not step down.

• As fractured as the LP is the Nationalist People's Coalition, identified with business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco, is key partner in the Lakas-led majority coalition. Ninety-four NPC members voted "yes," six voted "no," and 12 failed to vote.

• Estrip delivered 28 "yes" votes, although two abstained.

• Six Lakas-led majority Iloilo members of Rep. Edgardo Angara voted "no," while two failed to vote.

• Six from the Nacionalista Party of Sen. Manuel Villar voted "yes." The party he was elected with most voting "no" (10) than "yes" (nine). The Partido ng Demokratikong Pilipino (PDP) delivered its single vote, that of Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., to the "no" camp.

No decisive patronage flow

Patronage and concessions extended by Mr Arroyo were expected to have consolidated the "yes" votes for her and silenced the Lakas leadership to hold the coalition with the NPC from breaking ranks. This assumption has to be examined.

It is true that patronage was mainly responsible for Lakas to maintain its solid ranks and keep its coalition partners, the decisive patronage flow did not take place during the few days following the decision of the House committee on justice to dismiss the three complaints.

A survey made by the BusinessWorld on Sept. 5, Monday, and on Sept. 6 House vote, revealed as great shift in three two days and indicated that the members of Congress had made up their minds weeks before the vote—probably as early as the last week of July.

The survey, published on Sept. 6, shows that 131 supported Mr Arroyo, 49 backed impeachment, 13 seemed her to resign but didn't sign the impeachment complaint, and two had undecided on their stand. Three was no big shift between Sept. 5 and Sept. 6.

Battle cry

By Sept. 5, the issues of impeachment had crystallized. Senate President Franklin Drilon delivered his State of the Nation Address, the convention demanding her to step down had begun to falter, although the momentum had relocated the media with demonstrations of dwindling charges of bribery during the 2004 elections by the President.

Those die-hard supporters in addition to claims based on the Garci issue tapes of the alleged presidential intervention in the election count and to other allegations against her also revealed by members of the Cabinet who deserted Mr Arroyo on July 8.

The battle cry of the movement calling for resignation was the President "had to go," a sentiment, marked by its repetition on the back of the disbursement from the tapes and other charges cited in the impeachment complaints, including corruption of the presidential family accused of receiving payoffs from "Jueteng."

Having passed all their counts in the words of a Sen. pres., regime opponents failed to rate sufficient congressional support for the impeachment complaints and chose support for their despair "the President must go."

Rural areas unaware

Lawmakers explained Tuesday that they had consulted their constituents about how they would vote and that, in general, the mixed out of hand that the local and provincial constituencies were not aware of the issues of the resignation and impeachment campaigns—given that the issues were given wide publicity.

Rep. Jose Solis Salapuddin said that they were guided by the opinion and mood of their constituents can't be discounted. He say of showed national officials is more in touch with the mood of the local electorate and has a more sensitive assessment of local sentiments than lawmakers.

In a representative democracy, congressmen are the people's representative in Congress more than the senators who are elected nationwide and who have no grassroots political base.

As sensitive senses of rural opinion, lawmakers listen to their constituents and their sense of opinion of the issues against the President—not the perceptions of the businessmen and authoritarian rabble in Metro Manila who demanded the summary dismissal of the president through people power.

If the rural electorate does not accept the conclusion of the impeachment committee, including the politically meddlesome clerics and the condescension HDO types, then we must have to ask if the Manila-based opinion has made a good case of its advocacy.

Sense of survival

Lawmakers have a strong sense of political survival. If they sense that their constituents support the quashing of the impeachment complaints, they it's not hard to believe that they will vote the same way. They would be ignored by the unelected rabble-rousers in Metro Manila who have appointed themselves the guardian of the nation's conscience.

If lawmakers sense that the local mood coincides with that of urban Manila, then they would not dare go against the majority opinion if it has made a supposition with Metro Manila opinion. Grapes of dancing charges of bribery during the 2004 elections by the President.

There the lawmakers

Adan tells doubting officers: You don't know me

By Luige B. del Puerto

THE CONTROVERSY STEMMING President Macapagal-Arroyo's appointment of Lt. Gen. Efraim Adan as officer in charge of the Southern Command refuses to die.

Adan yesterday said officers questioning his ability to head Southcom "simply don't know me."

As professional soldiers, Adan said he expected the doubting officers to respect and defer to the judgment of their superiors.

"They probably don't know me. I ask them to look into my military background," Adan said. "Probably, they feel not stayed in Mindanao long enough."

Adan said he had spent a good 22 years of his military career in the Southern Philippines, where he held different posts.

He said he was commander of the brigade that neutralized a notorious criminal, then public enemy number one, in Kershaugan del Sur in 1999.

His experiences, he said, made him more than prepared to lead Southcom.

"They've had prepared me over my strategic leadership. I have enough experience to lead bigger units," he said in response to criticism he had never led a division.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday named Adan, the Armed Forces of the Philippines deputy chief of staff, OIC of Southcom, a coveted post because it controls 50 percent of the AFP's resources. She had clicked him over Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, the 9th Infantry Division commander who was the Board of General's choice.

The President went into her decision leaving the BOG's recommendation or naming Maj. Gen. Gabriel Rabacon, one of the officers mentioned in the "Idolo Gang" warrants alleging election cheating in 2004, who had retired for the post, according to military sources.

Some military officers, claiming they were were shared by many, said Adan's appointment over Bagasin was a mistake.

One officer in a sensitive post told the Inquirer the appointment had "not done good in earning the military."

"So far the AFP has remained united and neutral (in the current political) as), But Adan's appointment might polarize the AFP ranks, and other actors (but are critical of administration) might take advantage of it," he said.

The source said he had yet to talk to officers who favored the appointment. "Everybody I talked to had questioned it," he said.

A captain said he said his colleagues had discussed Adan's appointment in informal gatherings.

"Everyone is frustrated and agitated," he told the Inquirer in a text message.

Maj. Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Generoso Senga said former Adan's appointment should not be controversial at all.

"Why is it controversial? It shouldn't be," he told reporters.

Senga said the decision belonged to the commander in chief, President Arroyo, alone.

The BOG is merely a recommendatory body. The President could accept or reject whatever it recommends for a particular post, he said.

"The President may be looking at things from "a higher plane," Senga said. She knows things other government officials, like military officers, may not be aware of, he added.

Aside from Adan and Bagasin, other officers considered were Lt. Gen. Alan Cabalquinto of the National Capital Region Command and Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay of the Southern Luzon Command.

Dumlupapa City Rep. Rodi Golez, former chair of the House defense committee, yesterday said Adan was appointed Southern OIC to ensure the AFP's most powerful regional command remained loyal to the administration. With Philip C. Tubeo

Police general named university head

By Norli B. Mastara
PD Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—MALACAÑANG has appointed retiring Police Deputy Director Gen. Ricardo de Leon president of Mindanao State University (MSU).

This was confirmed on Saturday by National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, who said De Leon's appointment was prompted by the need "to clean the mess" generated by the conflict among the top contenders for the post.

De Leon, who retires today, has not yet receive his orders to assume the MSU presidency over Dr. Cesar Dispo, whose term expired on Sept. 1.

Dispo's term was extended on holdover capacity until President Macapagal-Arroyo had named a successor.

But the appointment of De Leon, who holds a doctorate degree in police and security administration, has been opposed by the university's alumni association, non-academic employees and faculty members.

Jessie Mintoy, Leader Aquilino Pimentel's chairman for President against making another "unpopular appointment" like handing over the presidency of the MSU system to a "military man."

"As long as there are qualified students from the local community or elsewhere, appointing a military man would raise a lot of questions," Pimentel said.

The senator noted that De Leon was not even nominated by the Mahaothig search committee, which screened some 40 aspirants, mostly MSU alumni.

The search committee reportedly submitted five names with their corresponding performance ratings in panel interviews, academic credentials and work experiences.

They included Dr. Rhazzaldy Mastura, who got 94.6 percent; Dr. Nasser Gora, 87 percent; Dr. Dimaguise Bantal, 84.1 percent; Dr. Datumanong Sawangan, 84 percent, and Jamias Undeocenray Macabangkit Lanto, 80 percent.

Gonzales said De Leon was also considered because he could rid the campus of "warlords."

But lawyer Tocod Macaraya Jr., an MSU alumnus, said Gonzales' claim about "warlords" was untrue.

Macaraya said he had spent most of his time working for the university and he had yet to see warlords meddling in academic affairs as Gonzales claimed.

Asanaliddin Salleng, vice governor-elect of the autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), called on Moroccan Muslim leaders who were close to Gonzales to get him to block the plan to appoint a non-MSU alumni and a nonresident of Mindanao to head the country's second largest government-run university system.

Gonzales said De Leon's appointment seen as a result of deliberate considerations with local Muslims.

Pinay maid in grisly slay charged in S'pore court

Front page A1

and doing more to save Constantino from the gallows.

Limbs in a sports bag

Details of the La Puebla murder, which police said occurred Wednesday and possible motives were not mentioned during Aguilar's half-hour court appearance.

La Puebla's head and limbs were found stashed inside a sports bag behind a motor vehicle at Orchard Road, Singapore's main shopping district, on Friday.

Aguilar was arrested just 12 hours later at her employer's home, where a cleaver was seized.

The torso of a woman dressed only in undergarments was found at Mandai Link Reservoir, a heavily wooded park several kilometers from the spot where the first grisly discovery was made by a street cleaner.

More tests

Police said they were still carrying out tests to determine if the torso was La Puebla's.

Magistrate Cynthia Shu ordered Aguilar remanded in the city state's central police lock-up for a week without access to counsel, so that the prosecution could carry out further investigations.

Aguilar, clad in a bright yellow T-shirt and blue sarong, looked exhausted throughout the court proceedings.

She shed tears occasionally, sniffing loudly as the interpreter repeated to her in Filipino what court officials were reading out in English.

Won't enter a plea

Another court hearing is to be held on Sept. 16 at 9:45 a.m., Dik spokesperson Gilberto Amapur said in a phone interview.

Aguilar "is not expected to enter a plea," Amapur said, quoting a report from the Philippine Embassy.

Administrator Marianito Roque of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration said Aguilar entered Singapore on a worker's visa but that the victim did not have a visa, based on their records.

The Philippines' labor attaché in Singapore, Melanie Gunay, is providing assistance to the suspect, Roque added. A Filipino legal counsel, Consul Maria Luzviminda Ilusia, has also been assigned to her case.

"We have to recognize that this is a criminal case and we have to observe the criminal procedure followed in Singapore," Roque said.

Jail visits

"We will give the necessary assistance to the accused. Certainly, we are making legal representations for the accused," he said.

In a statement released by the DFA, Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Belen Anota said the embassy would ensure that a lawyer was present at the hearings "to oversee the proceedings for both the deceased and the suspect."

Consul Ilusia and Dewex officer Christabel de Leon will visit Aguilar at the detention center after hearing been granted permission by authorities, Anota said.

She said the embassy would also coordinate with La Puebla's employer for the payment of her outstanding salaries and benefits, as well as the repatriation of her remains upon completion of the investigation and court proceedings.

Fingerprints

Anota added that the postmortem on the body would continue until today "as required by coroners and to complete other tests."

La Puebla was identified from the fingerprints taken from the corpse, Anota said.

She may have gone to work abroad without passing through proper government channels in the Philippines.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said her department did not issue or have any record of La Puebla. "It seems she didn't pass through us," she told the reporters in a phone interview.

As for Aguilar, Sto. Tomas said the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration had a record of the maid's departure for Singapore, but the secretary said she did not have the details.

Amapur said the Singaporean police were conducting their investigation into the cases.

The next of kin of both La Puebla and Aguilar had already been notified by the government, he said. *Reports from AFP, Nikko Dizon and Leila B. Salaverria*

Marcos...

From page A1

the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos to be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Makati City.

That's what a national group of Marcos loyalists is hoping.

Stacked in at least six boxes, the documents bearing the signatures were presented on Saturday first lady Imelda Marcos during the late dictator's 88th birth anniversary celebrations here on Sunday.

At the provincial capital where the program was held, Amerian Lachica, national president of Friends of Imelda Romuáldez Marcos, went up the stage and announced that the group had completed its signature campaign for the resumption's burial at the Libingan.

Lachica said the bundles would bring the signatures to the nation and ask her to respect their wish to have Marcos buried at the heroes' cemetery.

"We urge the President to respect the voice of the people. We ask her to do what is right. Marcos has long been denied his right to a place at the Libingan," Lachica said.

Divided

Despite the number of signatures gathered, some Ilocanos disagreed with the plan to transfer Marcos' remains from the family's compound in Batac to Makati.

"We want Marcos' body to remain in Batac. Why do they insist on taking him to Metro Manila when he is contented? If he remains here, many Ilocanos would be able to visit him and remember him," Elena Tabay, a resident of Nagulipad town, said.

Tabay has never missed the "Marcos Day" celebrations since 1999 when the Marcoses made the late dictator's birthday a yearly affair among Ilocanos.

Tabay said Ilocanos were divided over having Marcos buried at the Libingan, knowing the resentment of groups that have been constantly criticizing Marcos for his alleged human rights violations and ill-gotten wealth.

"If they do not want the President there, we should not have him here so he can leave our peace. What's the purpose of giving him a hero's burial when the rest of the country does not agree with it?" Tabay asked.

Imelda Marcos accepted the signatures but she said she was leaving to Mr Arroyo the decision on busy the late dictator at the Libingan.

"This is the voice of the majority. It just shows that the greater number of Filipinos are crying that material rest be given to Marcos," she said.

All about timing

Asked whether she would picture Marcos' burial on Sept. 28, her husband's 16th death anniversary, Imelda said: "It is all about timing. (Like what Shakespeare said,) 'Life is like a stage. You should know when to come in or out.'"

"(But) if it will make matters worst, better not. Pir ian-wait," she said.

Imelda, however, reminded the administration that Mr Arroyo's approval of Marcos' burial at the Libingan would be a means to unify the nation.

"This is a unification effort. There are thousands of (Marcos) loyalists nationwide. It is good for the government to get more support. The decision must be good for all," she said.

In her speech, Imelda did not hide her disappointment over her eldest daughter Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos' failure to appear at her father's birthday celebration.

Imee hurting

"I know that Imee is hurting. But I am more in pain ... because of what she did for her country," she said, referring to Imee's adamant ousting the plenary vote on the impeachment complaint against Mr Arroyo in the House of Representatives last week.

The Marcos widow urged members of the political opposition not to blame her daughter for not voting in favor of the impeachment complaint.

She said she hoped her daughter not to vote "for the sake of unity and peace for the country."

"I reminded Imee of her father's principle that when she makes a decision, she must base it on what is good for the country, not on what is good for her alone or her party," Imelda said.

The WORLD

Edited by Lawrence B. Casino

US remembers 9/11 under Katrina shadow

Trial Twins towers of the World Trade Center burn behind the Empire State Building in New York in this Sept. 11, 2001 photo. AFP

NEW YORK—THE UNITED States will pause Sunday (Monday in Manila) to remember the horror of the Sept. 11 attacks four years ago in ceremonies now overshadowed by the death and destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

In a now-familiar ritual, the names of the 2,749 people who died when the twin towers of the World Trade Center collapsed under the impact of two hijacked airliners will be read out at the main memorial event at Ground Zero.

This year, however, the thoughts of many Americans will be focused on other victims, the estimated one million left homeless and the thousands feared killed by the hurricane which devastated the US Gulf Coast nearly two weeks ago.

Vulnerable superpower

Both tragedies served to highlight the vulnerabilities of the world's superpower, but where Sept. 11 forged a sense of national unity out of trauma and anger, Katrina highlighted divisions of race and class and triggered accusations of government ineptitude, even.

In his weekly radio address on Saturday, President George W. Bush, under fire for the sluggish official response to Katrina, invoked the national spirit of post-Sept. 11 defiance and resilience in an effort to pull the country together in the hurricane's wake.

"Today, America is confronting another disaster that has caused destruction and loss of life. This time the devastation resulted not from the malice of evil men, but from the fury of nature and mind," Bush said.

"America will overcome this ordeal, and we will re-emerge for it," he said.

The administration is also trying to rally support with a Defense Department-sponsored "Freedom Walk" in Washington on June 18 to begin in Iraq, in what critics called a blatant piece of political propaganda by the Bush administration.

The part of the Pentagon where a third jet crashed on Sept. 11 was opened up to the public for the first time on Saturday.

Growing uncertainty

Even without Katrina, the new 9/11 anniversary falls at a time of growing uncertainty in the United States.

There is growing public concern with the cost, human and economic, of US involvement in Iraq. Opinion polls show many Americans feel less safer from the threat of another terrorist attack.

In a minor departure from previous anniversaries, Bush's motorcade at Ground Zero will avoid the streets where those who have been killed in military actions outside the United States over the past four years.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will attend the ceremony, together with New York Gov. George Pataki and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

The event will begin with a minute of silence at 8:46 a.m., the exact time when the first hijacked airplane struck the North Tower.

The names of those who died in the twin towers will be read out by their brothers and sisters.

During last year's ceremony, the roll call of the dead was given by the victims' parents and grandparents, adults in 2001 who took had been given to their children.

The reading of the names will be interrupted by three more moments of silence: at 9:03 a.m. to mark the South Tower attack, at 9:59 a.m. for the collapse of the South Tower; and at 10:29 a.m. for the destruction of the North Tower.

Low key

Since the emotional intensity of the first Sept. 11 anniversary, subsequent annual memorials have settled for a more low-key, personal tone and other events—some canceled or postponed—have crept back onto the calendar.

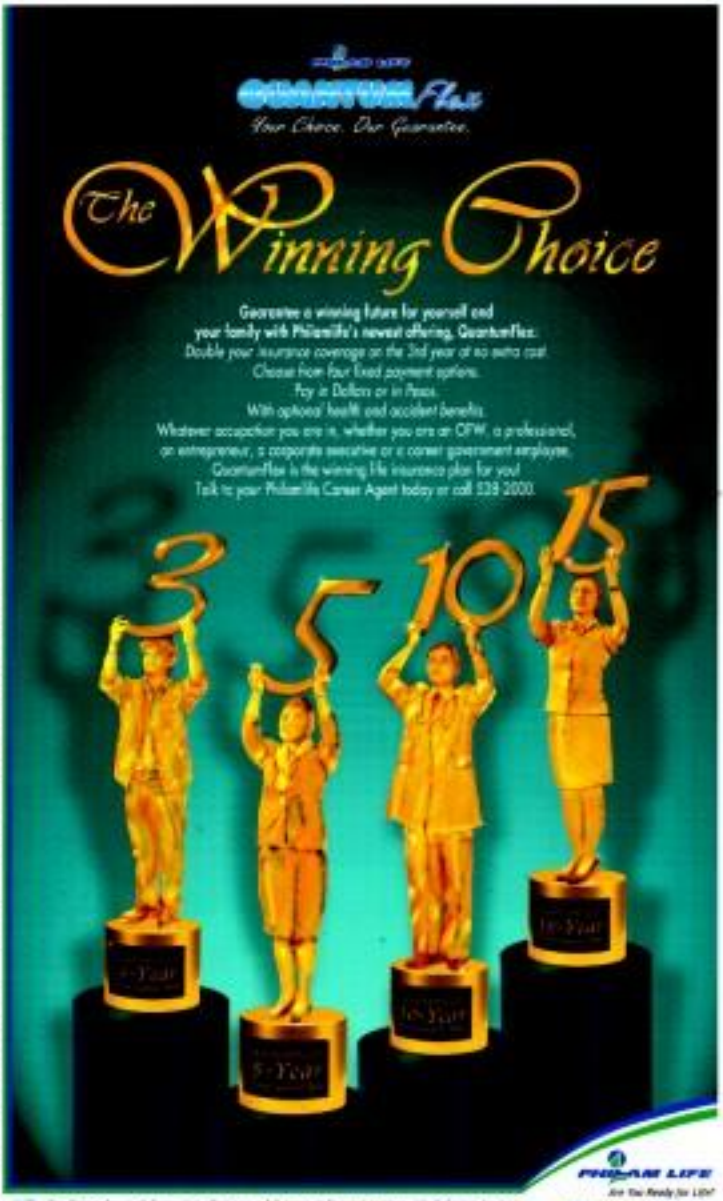
Three years ago, television networks devoted their programming to a day of remembrance. This Sunday they are offering live coverage of the start of the American football season, including the opening game of the New York Giants, and the season premiere of "The Simpsons."

Broadway shows will open as usual and the fashion industry will converge on Bryant Park's tented hub for the third day of the annual Fashion Week.

Many fear 2006's edition of the Sept. 11 ceremony, meanwhile, has been tainted by controversy over the plans for a memorial museum at the site.

More than 1000 relatives of the Sept. 11 victims called there on Saturday, protesting proposals for an International Freedom Center that will show exhibits on freedom struggles around the world.

The demonstrating victims' families, who held up photos of their loved ones and banners that read "Preserve Sacred Ground," say the center will shift the focus away from those who died on the terror attacks. AFP



Belfast rocked by worst rioting in years

BELFAST—PROTESTANT DEMONSTRATORS shot at police and pelted them with homemade bombs in Belfast on Saturday in some of the worst rioting seen in Britishruled Northern Ireland in recent years.

Trouble flared after a contentious parade by Orangemen near a nationalist neighborhood on the edge of west Belfast, and quickly spread to other parts of the city and to flashpoint areas.

Heavily armed police officers deployed in ten rounds and water cannon after they came under fire from automatic weapons and a rain of blast bombs, petrol bombs and bricks from angry mobs several hundred strong on west Belfast's Springfield Road and near the Shankill Road and Crumlin Road.

Cars were hijacked and set alight across the city.

Police said six officers had been wounded by blast bomb impacts and several others hurt, but added the number of casualties was likely to rise significantly.

Three civilians were also injured, one of them with serious gunshot wounds.

"Police officers and soldiers have come under sustained attack—they have been attacked with missiles, petrol bombs, blast bombs, and pipe bombs. They have been shot at," Northern Ireland Chief Constable Hugh Orde said.

At last the bulk of the blame for the disorder with the Orange Order, who organized the disputed parade.

"The Orange Order must bear substantial responsibility for this. They publicly called people to the streets. I think if you do that you cannot then abdicate responsibility. That is simply not good enough," he said in a statement.

The Protestant Orangemen and their supporters had been angered by a decision earlier this week by Northern Ireland's independent Parades Commission to reroute their planned march away from a nationalist enclave on the Springfield Road because of objections from residents.

Trouble broke out as they approached the rerouted section of the march, which had been postponed from earlier in the year.

Every summer thousands of Orangemen, wearing colorful regalia and playing music, engage in "marching season" to celebrate the 17th century defeat in battle of Catholic King James II by the Protestant William of Orange.

Most Catholics in the province regard the marches as an offensive display of triumphalism.

Earlier this week the Orange Order said the decision to reroute Saturday's march was the latest in a series of attempts to "erode Protestant culture" and deny Orangemen their rights, and called on followers to support the parade.

Tension has mounted recently in Protestant communities—which support Northern Ireland's links with Britain—at the view that the British government has moved too fast to reduce its security presence in the province without any concrete action by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to disarm.

Reuters

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US defense plans outline preemptive nuke arm strikes

WASHINGTON—A PENTAGON planning document being updated to reflect the doctrine of preemption declared by President George W. Bush in 2002 envisions the use of nuclear weapons to destroy buried arms bunkers and other weapons of mass destruction against threatened States or its allies.

The "Nuclear Posture Operations," which was last updated 18 years ago, makes clear that "the decision to employ nuclear weapons in any level requires careful review from the president."

But it also that in emerging environments "herselves or regional states armed with WMD will likely not UN security commitments to its allies and friends."

"In response, the US needs a range of capabilities to ensure friend and foe alike of its resolve," says the 44-page document, dated March 15.

A Pentagon spokesperson said Monday morning that Navy Capt. Steven Carlin, a public affairs officer for the chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has issued a statement saying the draft is still being circulated among the various services, field commanders, Pentagon lawyers and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's office.

Its contents are initially reported in The Washington Post in Sunday editions, which said the document was posted on a Pentagon Web site before the National Security Council.

The file was not available at that late Saturday evening, but a copy was available at www.globalsecurity.org.

"A broader array of capability is needed to dissuade states from undertaking ... courses of action that would threaten US and allied security," the draft says. "US forces must have a credible deterrent to potential adversaries who have access to modern military technology including WMD and the means to deliver them."

It says "deterrence of potential adversary WMD use requires the potential adversary leadership to believe the United States has both the ability and will to preempt or retaliate promptly with responses that are credible and effective."

It says "this will be particularly difficult with nonstate homogeneous actors who employ or attempt to gain use of WMD. Absent deterrence may be diverted at times that support their efforts as well as the terrorist organization itself."

"However, the continuing proliferation of WMD along with the means to deliver them increases the probability that someday a state, terrorist actor nation, terrorist group through inheritance or to deliberate choice, use these weapons. In such cases, deterrence was found on the threat of massive retaliation, and we find our United States must be prepared to use nuclear weapons if necessary."

It notes that US policy has always been purposely vague with regard to when the United States would employ nuclear weapons and that it has never articulated for the first to use them in a conflict.

One scenario for a possible nuclear preemptive strike in the draft would be in the case of an "imminent attack from adversary biological weapons that only effects from nuclear weapons can safely destroy."

AP

JEWORMAN rocks the eyes of her child, right, who is afflicted with Japanese encephalitis, for treatment at the Children Hospital in Allahabad, India, Sept. 11.

Doctors work without pay as India battles encephalitis

GORAKHPUR, India ...The death toll from an outbreak of Japanese encephalitis in southern India neared 600 Sunday as already overworked medical staff launched a hand-washing drive to help the poor families of child victims.

Lab Sahu, daughter Soumya had not even put it into a crib after 17 days, was about to leave Gorakhpur's BRD Medical College with the stricken 11-year-old in his arms.

"I've no money left and my child's condition is not improving and so I decided to leave and return to my village to find better treatment," he said.

"Our doctors have persuaded me to stay and promised to treat me and help my child."

Apart from holding the state government responsible, affected Bramesh is impoverished. Uttar Pradesh, dotted and some are working feverishly to raise funds to keep people the fabric from falling their children leave wide.

"All need to prevent such desperate acts," said pediatrician Ghanshyam Pandey.

"We've started a fund-raising campaign among relatives to buy food for the other doctors [parents] for... Many are poor people and their resources are stretched to the limit."

The death toll as of Sunday rose to 546 and 6,000 cases of the people infected was 1,000 across the state officials said.

Many percent of the victims failed by the mosquito-borne illness in Uttar Pradesh since the end of July have died in the BRD Medical College in Gorakhpur, the state's worst hit district.

Some 500 children are still battling for life in the govern- more hospital but anyone look money to buy medicines five their sons and daughters food for them.

AFP

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Iraq closes border with Syria amid US-backed Tal Afar operation

TAL AFAR, IRAQ—IRAQ CLOSED ITS BORDER with Syria on Sunday to stop what it calls foreign fighters entering the country as a US-backed military operation to wipe out suspected terrorists in the city of Tal Afar continued.

Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari said on Sunday he was also imposing an overnight curfew in the northwestern region of Rabiah, on the main road from the Jordan border to the northern city of Mosul, near Tal Afar.

Thousands of Iraqi troops backed by US forces launched an attack on rebels in Tal Afar starting at 2 a.m. on Saturday. Defense Minister Saadoun Dulaimi said that after the assault, government forces were ready to strike insurgents in four other northwestern towns.

US and Iraqi forces have long said Tal Afar was being used as a conduit for equipment and foreign Sunni Arab fighters smuggled to from Syria to fight the Shiite and Kurdish-led Iraqi government and occupying US forces across the country.

Dulaimi said troops killed 140 insurgents and captured 185 on Friday and Saturday in Tal Afar, adding that all but three of 17 bombmen—several thousand troops—involved were Iraqi.

The government has played up the lead role taken by Iraqi forces in the Tal Afar assault, keen to show that its fledgling US-trained army is capable of carrying out such an operation.

Previously such assaults have been led by US troops.

US officials say that 120 Iraqi battalions consisting of over 100,000 troops are now battle-ready after training by the US military.

"Iraqi forces entered all sectors of the city in [3] operations, but they are still engaging in May al-Sarar district," an Iraqi defense ministry official said on Sunday, citing a military report covering the period 8 a.m. on Saturday to 8 a.m. on Sunday.

He added that Iraqi forces had killed three insurgents and arrested eight during that 24-hour period. He did not give their nationalities.

In its own statement, the US military said Iraqi and Coalition Forces had captured 221 enemy suspects, killed 140 terrorists and confiscated nine weapons caches, but made clear the figures dated back to Aug 26.

Residents reported US air strikes early on Saturday, gunfire and an encirclement of US armor in parts of the town as Jaafari announced an offensive had begun.

But military operations were hampered later on Saturday by a sandstorm. Local residents said the victory of Tal Afar was quiet early on Monday. Reuters

IRAQI students line up to enter their classes at an elementary school on the first day of the new school year in Baghdad Sept. 10. Iraq's Minister of Education Abdul Falah Hassan announced that six million students around the country started their first day of school.

Koizumi heads for election victory

TOKYO — JAPANESE Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's ruling party coalition looked set for victory in a Sunday election that has already shaken up Japan's political landscape and raised expectations that economic reforms will stay on track.

Koizumi needs a substantial win to ensure his fractious Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will support his reform agenda, starting with privatizing the postal monster—a financier in disarray giant with $3 trillion in savings and insurance assets.

The 63-year-old Koizumi, a telegenic veteran with an appetite for punchy slogans but a mixed record on implementing change, called the election after 189 lawmakers helped the opposition to defeat his private Japan Post reform bills in parliament.

Koizumi's shock decision to strip LDP rebels of party backing and send urban media called "assassins" candidates to challenge the "traitors" guided the campaign, making the election as much a referendum on Koizumi himself as on policy.

"I want to let Mr. Koizumi finish off the reforms he has started," Arikuni Hiyoshi Asaoka, 75, said after voting in the western city of Osaka.

"Pensions and social security are issues for our lowmost elderly ages...but I wanted to leave Mr. Koizumi enlisted," he added.

Some, however, said they were put off by rebel media have called "fratricide Diet," and the staunch prime minister's Status on presenting Japan Post, a cumbersome dissension.

"I think Koizumi went too far by putting 'assassins,' He talks only about postal reforms but there are other important issues such as pensions and taxes," said Kazushige Ikeda, 56, who works at a financial institution in Tokyo.

The main opposition Democratic Party argued that only a change of government could achieve reform and that other issues such as pension reform mattered more than the post office—although the Democrats also say Japan Post needs to be reformed. Reuters

Keep stretching.

S. Korea seeks to halt alarming rise in Caesarean births

SEOUL—NEARLY 40 PERCENT OF South Korean babies are now delivered by Caesarean section...a reward among outnumbered nations—in a trend the government has labelled a burden on the public health system.

While many women prefer "C-sections," ones says as an emergency procedure, as safer and less painful alternative to natural childbirth, critics say the practice aims to help the medically-shady more than the mothers-to-be.

Every day more than 300 South Korean women give birth through the surgical procedure, but many confirm the Health Insurance Review Agency argues nearly 40 percent of the C-sections are medically unnecessary.

The World Health Organization recommends a rate of 5 to 15 percent for C-sections, but the trend toward Caesarean sections has risen sharply worldwide.

In the United States, it has increased from less than one in 14 births to nearly one third in three decades.

In South Korea, the figure is close to 40 percent, more than double the EU average and a record among the 30 member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Medical experts say that C-sections...reserved in the past as an emergency option when the life of a mother or baby was at risk—are now seen as a safe and convenient alternative to natural childbirth.

But South Korea's government worries about the drain on health resources.

The country has spent almost 350 billion won ($346 million) of its health care budget on childbirth expenses, Most out of 60 on C-sections.

"The abuse of Caesarean births represents a waste of medical resources and an increased public burden of medical fees," the Health Insurance Review Agency said in a report last month.

While many women see C-section as a medical advance, some feminists argue the practice mainly serves the interests of hospitals and doctors by luring users to schedule and carrying less risk of malpractice suits.

Cho Sun Ock, a researcher at the Korean Women's Institute, a Seoul think tank on feminist issues, said the system is geared to suit the interests of the medical profession, which actively promotes the practice.

"If a doctor says to a woman she needs a Caesarean, the woman won't argue. Because doctors are authority figures who have to be obeyed in this Confucius society," she said.

Anne Choi, spokesperson for the Council of Korean Obstetrics and Gynecologic Practitioners, said "The key reason for the abnormally high rate in South Korea is fidelity concerns about a malpractice suit."

She said doctors are likely to be more secure with doctors in a malpractice suit concerning natural childbirth.

Whatever the reasons, C-sections have become increasingly common.

Two decades ago less than one in 10 South Korean women underwent the procedure, five years ago the rate was over 20 percent, and in 1999 it peaked at 42 percent.

The practice was unwittingly encouraged by a health insurance scheme that effectively punished women for choosing natural birth by forcing them to pay a higher proportion of their medical bills. Since January of this year, however, national insurance now covers 100 percent of the cost of natural births.

But hospitals and doctors operating in South Korea's for-profit health care system, C-sections remain the most lucrative option.

A Caesarean surgery lasting about 40 minutes nets surgery as much in South Korea as a natural delivery that can keep a medical team of doctors and nurses busy for 24 hours.

C-sections can be scheduled in advance, and doctors are rarely called from other beds at night to deliver babies through surgery. AFP

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ISSN 0116-2442 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Est. 2010 n 278

OPINION

Email feedback@inquirer.net.ph; website http://opinion.inquirer.net

Fax Business/Circulation: 896-6214; Business Advertising: 896-6000 loc. 4301; Circulation: 896-6000 loc. 4201; Classified Ads: 896-6000 loc. 4401; Production: 896-6000 loc. 4501; Editorial: 896-6000 loc. 4101; Fax: 896-6214

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Stay put

IT IS DISINCENTIVES OF IMPEACHMENT ADVOCATES to play coy about the "military component" of their campaign, and then to run around and raise the alarm about groundings in the barracks. They are playing with fire, at a time when the political landscape is littered with tinder.

It is not enough to say, as former President Corazon Aquino has said time and again, that the current political crisis must be resolved through peaceful means. In today's highly charged environment, an ambiguous interpreter can render "peaceful" to mean even armed support—so long as the arms remain holstered.

EDITORIAL

We must all be more categorical: The military must not decide the crisis one way or the other. To even suggest otherwise is to help push the country back two decades, to the days when a newly restored democracy struggled to put the genie of military intervention back in the lamp that Ferdinand Marcos broke.

Sadly, that was what Aquino intimated a week ago, at a news conference called by the Bahikan Para sa Katotohanan, one of the latest attempts to unite the opposition. Asked whether her campaign to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo through impeachment or resignation had a military component, the icon of democracy, twice this newspaper's Filipino of the Year, responded rather glibly: I used to be commander in chief, and I still have many friends in the Armed Forces.

Laughter and applause greeted her quick reply, but its truth is not an unfortunate answer. It romanticized the specter of a politicized military, the very thing that had beamed the Aquino years. Worse, it seemed to invite the military, or at least some groups within it, to take sides in the political crisis.

Are these Cory's Officers now, in the same way that there were Cory's Candidates before? If it was counter-democratic for messianic punchers to intervene in the 1980s, it must still be so today—even if Aquino is now on the same side.

But arms can be used only to protect the public square, not to control it. The military must not decide the crisis one way or the other.

This crucial distinction is no reflection on the quality of the country's fighting men and women, who daily, even routinely, put their lives on the line. It is merely a reflection of the role they themselves have chosen to play, by swearing allegiance to the Constitution that defines our democracy and guarantees civilian supremacy over the military.

Of course, the country's soldiers are citizens too, and they are listening closely to the increasingly intense public discourse. Some are not immune to subtle appeals to patriotism, or not-so-subtle appeals to "save" the nation.

They hear the convenor of the Bahikan, Armin Luistro, FSC, talk about young officers as if they are the motive force, the source of dynamism, in the military: "Capitalizing on those pent-up feelings about the system, the young officers can decide to venture into politics and take advantage of the political crisis to catapult themselves into power."

But when Luistro, the president of the country's De La Salle schools, fails to say that the opposition will not welcome any armed support, or abhors military intervention to end the crisis, well, they hear that, too.

These days, it is not enough to say one is for peaceful or non-violent means. Those who stand behind the Constitution must say categorically, that political crises are meant to be resolved without even the implied use of the instruments of violence.

"In the depths of the current political crisis," me wrote two months ago, "we must be careful not to tempt the armed services to leave the barracks and rush into the public square. How do we do that? By continuing the civ-mil drills the constitutional process."

Has last Tuesday's equally unfortunate vote in Congress exhausted the constitutional remedies? Hardly. There are petitions to be filed before the Supreme Court; motions to be made in the House of Representatives; perhaps, investigations to be conducted in the Senate. Above all, there is the prospect of a more solid impeachment case next year, and beyond that, the people's judgment at the next vote.

It's a whole lot of work, thankfully, none of it needs to be done by the military.

Power grab turns off many People Power allies

"HELP ME BE A GOOD AND JUST PRESIDENT," Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo asked the people in a message read for her by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye. Perhaps, she had unintentionally slow read it because the words just sounded too unctuous and after her month. Why? Because the words "just" and "good," are in the statement. Either the words are not in her vocabulary or the words have no meaning for her.

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

In the first place, her problems started because she was not honest. The reason honesty any until now whether she was the "duly" sought in the fact tapes coming with Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, and whether they cleared in the presidential elections. Tonight (as I finished it in the typing for typhoon to shirt or confirm what they imply, the pro-multitude-strike-in-Luneta. How can she be honest when she refuses to face the music? How can she be honest when, after challenging the opposition to "impeach me" as "I can have my day in court," she herself—the transgressor with past history of trials to tell the impeachment complaints filed against her?

How can she be "just" when she allowed her cabinet to use all sorts of technical chicanery to foil the impeachment complaints? How can she be "just" when she uses the taxes paid by the hard-pressed countrymen to bribe congressmen and witnesses so she can continue in way to Malacañang? How can she be "just" when she distributes favors to give cover to the rich?

How can she be "good" when she has no sense of justice? How can she be "good" when she is not sincere, when she lies like nobody's business, when she cannot keep her promises?

But just in case GMA has finally seen the error of her ways and has decided to be truly "just" and "good" and "just." In order that she can begin to be honest, she must, first of all, say truthfully where (date) is, where she sees him, and she must not hesitantly whether they cheated in the election. And whether her husband, son and brother in law did receive payola from jueteng bets, my President, there are so many questions the people are asking and to only can answer these questions honestly except you. The people are already helping you to be good and just by asking the questions. The students are now answering them honestly and resolutely, then you will start becoming a better person.

* * *

Some opposition leaders are already showing their true colors, and there's a bad omen in the efforts to oust GMA from the presidency. These leaders are insisting on a transition government instead of a constitutional succession as under GMA in control. The Constitution says it should be the vice president who should succeed to the presidency, but they want a council or a junta to replace her. And who will compose this council or junta? Why who else? It will be no other but them, of course. In short, they want to grab power.

That without all else of people who are otherwise willing to save and support another people power to oust GMA. That is why the anti-GMA rallies do not attract bigger crowds. For many Filipinos, after their experience with people power, the tragedy is clear that this is too untenable to a transition government. GMA should be replaced by the constitutional successor, she said, meaning the Vice President.

If President Aquino leaves the movement, a mild hour arises. Her star is not just that top crowd-drawer; she is also one of the movement's most indefatigable campaigners, offering to go all over the Philippines to explain to the people why GMA has to go.

Not compellingly, most of those who want or grab power has its pain elsewhere. Some did not even run for elective office. Now they want to enter the nation's leadership through the backdoors.

They want to oust GMA because she cheated in the polls. At least she ran for office. But they who did not, now insist to replace her.

So what if it is the Vice President Noli de Castro who will succeed to the presidency? She Constitution says he should be the successor.

They all say Noli is no different from GMA, that they are kinds of the same feather. How do they know that? Noli is still an unknown entity. There is a 99 percent chance that he would be no bad or worse than GMA. But there is also a 50 percent chance that he would be better. In the first place, nobody cannot be worse than GMA.

One thing sure, Noli will be very careful, knowing that he will be watched very closely and that the slightest mistake he makes will see the opposition on him, like a pack of dogs. He wouldn't want what is happening to GMA to happen to him.

But, maybe, he doesn't have the brains to be president. Maybe. But then, he may just have the brains. So let's first see first, let's give him a chance to show what he can do. He may see pull a surprise: the same way Ramon Magsaysay also surprised many years ago. If he's not the crimes, then we replace him, too. But he's not replace him before he gets his chance.

Of course, another reason some opposition leaders don't want Noli—besides the fact that they want the job for themselves—is that there will be no more excuses for the masses of their followers waiting for their turn at the ally. Noli will likely retain most of GMA's cabinets, besides bringing in some of his own. Now then can the opposition leaders give the excuse that Noli lacks followers?

Miserly, the predators are fighting over the quarry they have not brought down yet. Isn't ethics to think is to do it step by step. First things first. Oust GMA first. Then will already be a big victory. Then we can talk about Noli.

But prior to power grab and jam will not have many supporters. Can you bear the thought of GMA laughing at you?

Meddling

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

TO BEGIN WITH, I DON'T KNOW WHY MR. bothered to make Defense Secretary Santiago's views of life and morality news, much more natural it into a headline. Santiago has about as much qualification to talk about morality as Mike Tyson has to talk about several engines.

Her views of right and wrong have been so already skewed up during the Erap impeachment trial. She tried to destroy the credibility of a witness, a young lawyer named Clarissa Buted, by branding her the liar who Buted had left a job that paid well in a law office owned by an Erap crony for a job that paid not as well in another law office that opposed Erap. Santiago found it "remarkable" that anyone in her right mind—especially one living she finds qualified in talk about—would do that.

"Sir," Santiago sneered, succeeding her guiding principle in life, "you made the mistake of deviating from the usual career path after graduation. ... Be very sure get the highest salary we can get." Fortunately for her, UP did not think and their service her diploma. Unfortunately for her, Sister grew up to show in the course of time and many lawyers that "a remarkable" job is a law office with a higher salary is a law office with a lower salary" was remarkable only in that it showed principle, a concept many lawyers in this country seemed to flee to grasp.

Santiago's views on morality fell far under standing of right and wrong by viewing her wage on the gallery, causing Sonia Jimenez, Bertha Abaloz and Rosario Bautista Nuno to be elected "for turning me provocatively." Read in one of your mind to define any comic humorists like Chris Tiu and Ogie Alcasid.

In fact, if there's a modern way to determine what is moral in this country, it is to look at which ones Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile and Reynaldo Puno have joined—and pick the other side. You can't go wrong. It's a sure shortcut to already revealed truth. All of them were sore with Erap but are now with GMA, shedding alike when the going was good. Puno thinking now the going got good to transmitting the

"Court Personals." Indeed, if there is a surefire way to determine which regime will go down, it is to look at which one all these decide to support. Which the gods seek to destroy they first have them for allies. Well, they also, of course, obliterate them every bit of an index of conscience—a pretty pointless—that gave Impeaching Belmonte. Iris also someone else and dismiss revealed much the same way as Santiago.

What makes Santiago's remarks last Friday spectacularly cruel is that she should discipline that it is wrong for one Malacañan to meddle in the affairs of the countries. From Day One, or from the moment the "Hello Garci" tape materialized from out of the blue—enough to make you believe God were more meddle in the affairs of men, and more as secretly women—Santiago has been saying that the tape was illegally acquired and that there was nothing in the "Hello Garci" conversation to convict GMA of anything. Even after conversation was exonerated Ebdane.

But my dear Maritoni, didn't GMA herself admit to the public, before meeting her own much-misnamed cabinet, "I am sorry," that "I spoke to a Comelec official"? Isn't GMA's mind, thing in the affairs of state, and not the Comelec's, considered meddling in the affairs of Garcia, the most damning thing in the world, betraying as it does God, State and the rest, not necessarily in that order? Isn't that the more possible meddling in the world, possibly, after or the very tapes by being preempted from holding office until the very thing by a cuff phone-sent?

Of course one can always argue legalistical, by an last-ape-does, that GMA never admitted

talking to Garci, only to "a Comelec official." But a wink something in the natural operations of the human mind to suggest that that Comelec official could be anyone other than Garci. Indeed, it completely terrible to even thought to engage any human being, or creature of the night, could possibly have the voice that sounded like the words, "Hello Garci." That first signature is more characteristic than a fingerprint, DNA or moral shape. You don't need the CSI for that.

But I am glad I meddled in the affairs of the Church, enough to imagine I might have contributed to the ferment in their ranks. I am no more an authority on Canon Law—but I am no authority on Canon Law as a reasonably intelligent, give or take a shadow or two, man will detect as will the difference between law and delusion, between Divine is Double Dealing Macapagal-Arroyo's will find it surprising that the Catholic Church hierarchy should have said less months that GMA is not the only corrupt president to have turned out two, so removing her won't do anything. I am doubtful that Msgr. Bert Iarullo Cervini, secretary general of the CBCP now says: "We cannot tell our people to resist evil by evil means. We have to involve ourselves in moral means effecting our people." That is not interfering in the moral forum of reason.

As it is, the bishops have been pulpit. Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, who will succeed the CBCP presidency in January next year, ...even parish legitimacy as he was traveling the post by the second of bishops without him to say "Hello Garci"—has merely insisted that weighing remedies on options for GMA. In English, they will bishops who have been disinfected in a mantle of such humongous proportions it has over the century apart that they have the option of confining themselves to their cocoon, content to bend, to embark, just as they have been doing for the past decade, with top people who have heard of the word sin.

In this country, that is merely meddling in the nature of scruples.

The killing of the GMA impeachment

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

THE GMA IMPEACHMENT HEARING BILL IT WAS killed, postponed indefinitely.

In the impeachment process, the Senate and the House of Representatives have different roles. The House, as prosecutor, can choose to continue or not to prosecute. The Senate, as judge, can either acquit or convict. Neither of the two, however, may dismiss the case.

Such last month I wrote: "It is important to remember that, in an impeachment, what is involved is not just a legal determination also a political decision. It is for this reason that the impeachable offenses have been purposely left out. Impeachment is not a matter of justice but is a political (read "policy making") body. Thus, when the senators deliberate on what verdict to support, the question they answer is not only whether there is evidence to support a "guilty" verdict but also whether it is wise for the nation, given the political points should be to declare the offending official/s guilty or not."

"In other words, a verdict of 'not Guilty' does not necessarily mean 'innocent.' It can also mean guilty, but not guilty enough to support removal from office. Similarly, a verdict of 'guilty' can mean the reverse of the nation. When you look at it from this perspective, debate about the quality of evidentiary proof—whether proof beyond reasonable doubt, or preponderance of evidence, or substantial evidence, or some other such standard—becomes irrelevant or at least not particularly important. What is decisive is the gut feel of individual senators."

The climax of the gut feel session was reached in the afternoon of last Monday and into the early hours of last Tuesday. Members of the House of Representatives who had been waiting all grueling and exhausting session to be able to cast their gun and, we can ignore the words they pronounced, proclaiming that President Macapagal-Arroyo is guilty as might stand. But we cannot ignore the raucous line of what they wanted—that the threshold was supposed to be the 1/6 of being removed from office by the Senate.

Behind the double ties to have last removed could be a million reasons. Guilt or innocence was not necessarily the number of those who spoke during the hearings. Guilt or innocence, impeachment is a numbers game. It is an aspect of democracy, even if democracy sometimes can be a mixture of wise and senseless.

This is the reality which we inherited from American jurisprudence. Our precedent regarding the "role of the Senate in the cases at that of the United States.

The American rule also applies to the role of the House, except that our Constitution has placed limitations on the role of the House. Similar to the Senate in the American experience. This fact gave an opening for the entry of the Supreme Court into the Senate impeachment.

Can the GMA impeachment be revived by the Court? I understand that there are two cases already filed before the Supreme Court seeking the Court to intervene. I also understand that lawyer Oliver Lozano is asking the Supreme Court to reverse the House finding of insufficiency of substance. A judgment on substance is on the merits, and seemingly finds that the Supreme Court will intervene.

The only possible ground for intervention in the constitutional mistake might be "grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction." But if you had listened to the discussion of last Monday and Tuesday, you would have seen that there was every attempt on the part of 131 congressmen to observe their mere exercise.

But the failure of this administration runs deeper than its chronic and intentional diversion of resources away from the types of policies that help people. Years from now, when the dust has settled, demonstrating that the increased intensity and frequency of hurricanes is related to climate change, the Bush administration's persistently timid participation in international climate negotiations will be viewed as a colossal failure of environmental leadership. Despite the administration's pro-business credentials, the Bush administration provided little support for the development of renewable energy technologies. Instead, it has continued to promote the use of fossil fuels, which are the primary source of the greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

Finally, the loss of wetlands characterized here Orleans' response to the storm. Despite the knowledge that this would have 40 to 60 miles of protective swamp as buffer between the city and the Gulf of Mexico. Despite every major study showing that the wetlands' continued existence provided the highest levels of protection, and despite repeated appeals to keep protecting 20 million acres of wetlands, allowing developers to drain thousands of acres, since the 1964 storm. Nearly half (about 40 percent) for a project to hold back the waters of Lake Pontchartrain.

The ideologues of privatization that inspired the Bush administration's policies—including the jobs of the agencies charged with protecting the public—urged to save themselves while steering the poor clinging to roofs—since now be challenged. That disaster is a chilling reminder of what happens when government fails to protect its citizens. It is a failure that demonstrates demand accountability. Officials who did not do their jobs must be disciplined, and elected officials whose policies aggravated the devastation brought by Hurricane Katrina must be removed from office. We owe this to the dead and to the survivors. Project Syndicate

Terry Lynn Karl is professor of Political Science at Stanford University.

Flaws in polls

"Polls, Arthur the John chamber 'are the voodoo, or the omen of political leaders and media without sufficient information and imprimatur to represent any meaningful popular consent.'" —U.S. Pundits, US political scientists

OTHER THAN THESE SANCTIMONIOUS INVOCATIONS OF "doctrine" and "truth," the anti-liberal presidential pollsters in a moment have come ... based on polls ... that more Filipinos want her out. These anti-Gloria forces no longer even refer to the actual surveys; they merely state mindlessly—at most, only refer to inconclusive columns—that "70% ... "plans" were President Macapagal-Arroyo's ouster down from power.

But relatively, the content of the two months' polling surveys do not support the opinion-makers' hysterical fantasies; and the Pulse Asia Inc. Polls represent a period—or even just a moment—of the public's perception. Because as the height of a explosion is a telltale plane. That doesn't mean brought that the verse isn't a great event. A person's pulse quickens during moments of agitation and danger; that doesn't necessarily mean that he is about to die.

And one people's pulse can change quickly and not move, or by as a result of reasonable deliberation.

In early March (1998), despite the dramatic revelation of the narcotics' power's ties, even President Fidel Ramos' popularity as high 84%, with "dissatisfaction" registering only to be mid-1999. (Should FM have resigned then?) The worst for the nine the Plan Commonwealth controversy. The decline in Ramos' popular approval even caused by accusation of his Public outrage broke on the case of a conviction made by his lawyer, albeit necessary, a statement which, the people felt, was unjustified.

In November 1999, Estrada's satisfaction ratings, which were zooming up in the 79 point level, suddenly crashed to ten 15 percentage points. What? In that month there was a barrage of media reports against him: front page photos of the mansions of his cronies, and banner headlines and front page quotes of his drinking spree in Hotel Boracay. However, Estrada recovered his popularity in the 35 point level by September the following year.

The point were stressed by media, when the American newspapers that defining President Estrada and the Kuwaiti that suggested to be worth billions in 1974. The elaborate media over the congress—of media and polls continues, to the United States, when their political parties during election periods, US media outlets also commissioned poll surveys.

This prompted research into the use of US polls in election. J.S. Fishkin, Bell Labs, "The Voice of the People" (1995). he noted, "Polls are no more than the superficial means by which newspapers have come to speak for the people," Indeed, if newspapers do not publish polls, the letter will be in marginal letters to editors in academic days notices.

Fishkin then explored the role in a moment of public awareness, the basic flaw of opinion polling is this: They report opinions only if the opinions are considered or manufactured. "Without polling one gives us basis only what citizens know do not mean the phone rings," another US political scientist, Robert Weissberg writes.

And as for the power of television and newspapers in the modern world, media images are enough to confidently shift public perception. The sudden change in public opinion on the Hussein War wasn't really due to the Pentagon Papers or academ reveals or normative debates. It was the images on television, such as the ones showing wounded US soldiers in combat zones, and a young Vietnamese girl burnt in a napalm bombing.

Neither Congress cannot turn a corner for deliberating the impeachment issue, opposition demagogues were able to speak day in, day out—with full media coverage—with all pressure and media. Even the Senate trial of Sen. Joker Lagumasino was even devious enough to keep repeating to every interview, "All we want to find out is whether the President is a thief and a liar." After people keep seeing and hearing congressmen saying for nearly three months that the President is a thief, what opinion would you ordinary Filipino express if he were asked by a pollster?

One prominent impact of opinion polls is the bandwagon effect, and this is the reason why in many countries, the publication of pollsters' findings on voting preferences immediately several weeks before elections.

A pollster may report a high percentage of respondents want them to out. "Middle house" interpret that as the voice of the people. Therefore, they want Gloria out, too. The next month the percentage of Filipinos wanting Gloria out increases.

That is exactly what happened in recent months. "Look at the figures," the late newsman Jose Mercado said in a TV interview, referring to Pulse Asia's findings on the popularity of the President, "and they keep falling." Therefore, Senator pulled the drug 4—to increase the called 5 members.

A more insidious use of polls in the guise of objectivity is when the pollsters themselves become the ones who set out to propel to the respondents. Consider the following approach:

Introductory statement by pollsters: President Estrada has admitted she called a Comelec official. There are some who claim that the statement is the elections.

Q 1: Do you think President Gloria should in the elections?

Q 2: Do you think she should resign?

The questions might appear objective, but how how the responses would have easily changed if the introductory statements were different.

Another type of introductory statement—President Estrada won in 2004 by a margin of more than 1.3 million votes over FPJ. Many of the Catholic Church, the Iglesia ni Cristo, El Shaddai, and business groups clearly supported Arroyo in that election. It was Congress which then turned that Prez Estrada from office.

Question 1: Do you think President Gloria was only because she cheated?

Question 2: Do you think she should resign?

ONE and Pulse Asia would never have used such an approach.

The introductory statements were actually terms in their reverse polls. The statements and questions were in Filipino. Their translations of the statement "President Gloria admitted calling a Comelec official" was "Inamin ni Pangulong Gloria na tumawag siya sa isang opisyal ng Comelec official."

The statement "admitted" is "confessed," or as a crime. But the President never confessed to a crime. And if you were an ordinary Filipino being told by a pollster that your President admitted to a crime, wouldn't you agree that he/she should be ousted?

Polls, ratio claim flaws, can never be the basis for political action. They can become substitutes for representative, republican democracy.

Some 236 representatives of the people availed in detail the impeachment charges and debated over them for weeks. The majority, 218 of them, decided to junk the complaints, and only 5-1, less than a fourth of them, wanted her impeached. Can we claim to decide to come, when 113 members of Congress voted for his impeachment?

Bush's second Gulf disaster

PRESIDENT BUSH HAS ASKED AMERICANS NOT to "play politics" as the memories of terrible national disasters fade, making hard questions of our nation's preparedness for catastrophe more difficult to ask. Because the government's response to Hurricane Katrina is widely viewed as a national disgrace.

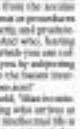
Katrina came with at least two days' warning, but authorities waited to issue an evacuation order. Many people who did not have cars or could not get gasoline as well as the facilities to house and care for refugees were insufficient. There were no buses to move or shelter (impotent) needed supplies or to secure order. And there was no attempt to use the number of buses, helicopters and other craft necessary to rescue to be stranded.

With all pictures of the hurricane's fury in the past of getting military personnel on the board, it is hard to believe that the government did not know there was simply no other option of command and control. As a result, countless people suffered and died.

Much of the failure is the result of the Bush administration's policies which have effectively created the capacities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema), the government agency primarily responsible for dealing with disasters. Fema's budget was cut by 25 percent as well as with the strategy of privatizing the functions of government, the administration systematically stripped Fema's long-term ability to prevent disasters or to react. To celebrate the blows which proved to be not possible.

Fema was downsized and downgraded from a cabinet position, then placed under the Department of Homeland Security. In contrast of disaster preparedness, it was assigned to anti-terrorism, and in focus was altered to fight terrorism. Its leadership had no experience in disaster management. The post director was one of Bush's "loser" appointees from the campaign of former's qualifications. Some include a stint as commissioner for judges and stewards with the International Arabian Horse Association, where he was asked to resign for "inappropriate behavior."

To our worthy bishops



THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

YOUR Eminences and Excellencies: By practitioners, the Secular Authority, in the form of the President of the Philippines, has called the country's attention to "Salvation from Poverty" Conversion, Reparation and Consecration for this nation in order to promote peace and unity among Filipinos."

I submit that the call of this times, as exemplified by the President's proclamation, requires more again the intervention of spiritual forces in our secular life. The hierarchy of the Philippines and as much when, through a collective instrument, is offered as to invoke society a guide to moving spiritual principles in the conduct of human affairs, of social and public roles, for beside that exist accountability. Of the issues proposed, three manifested in superficiency examination, and the one that moved forward the most was arranged in a rash of procedures that killed any possible hope (and resentment) of bestowing the impeachment.

The Catholic Encyclopedia tells us, in its essay on the "Discernment of Spirits," that "All moral conduct may be summed up in the rules received and do good." The standard of impeachment complaints has been handed by the defenders of the President in something good, has been condemned by the detractors of the President as an evil act. The majority have not faith in either good or evil.

Does more the faithful turn to their bishops for guidance? What will you tell us? Or will you seem good? I am reminded of an interview of Fr. Georg Ratzinger, published on Aug. 26, 2000 in Junge Freiheit, in which he said, "The Church must not forget that she not only considers today but she must prevail in eternity." By your speaking up, you will open up something spectacular, by your silence you will be traced for all time.

The Catholic Encyclopedia (from which the text and subsequent quotations come) tells us that the "Spiritual Exercises" of St. Ignatius, "include the discernment of spirits, by which they find the good and the evil spirit act upon a soul according to the attitude it assumes toward them. If it is poor in their friend, they flatter it, if it resists them, they attempts to cast. But the evil spirit spurns only to the imagination and the senses, whereas the good spirit acts upon reason and conscience." I will not belabor what has been covered, and flattered you, while ignoring the substance of your pastoral statement? Have has thwarted every means to elicit from the secular authority explanations, statements or procedures a matter needs, in order to promote and preserve, hold in high esteem, and defend? And why, having you and the majority know with which you are collectively speak, has summoned you by subjecting acts of charity it made to you to the basest interpretations, by lewd revealing them not?

Of "Consecration" we are told, it "raises human right and wrong in conduct, added immeasurable by a good will, by the use of the emotions, by the practical experience of living, and by all material helps that are in the principle. Being a principle governing conscience depends in large measure on its correctness upon the good use of it and on proper care taken to heed its deliverances, cultivate its powers and exercise its motives." Can a good conscience permit the continuing formation of private and public policy under the present regime?

And continuing "Reason" and "Conscience," in the light of "Tradition," which thoroughly informed your last national statement, shouldn't we reflect that, "it is to be observed that prudence, while presenting its rules as the simplest error all the moral virtues, itself aims to produce; and we will not be excellent in its practical decisions by basic concern to point out which course of action is to be taken in any round of conscience circumstances. It maintains the power to control the higher virtues when the success of all virtues lies. It has nothing to do with directly willing the good it discerns. That is done by the particular moral virtues within whose province it falls. Prudence, therefore, has a directive capacity with regard to the moral virtues."

Which brings us, dear bishops, to justice, defined by the Catholic Encyclopedia as "the most important of the cardinal virtues." If Prudence was the call you made last time, is it not time to call for justice? For justice "is a moral quality of the will, perfectly fixed and constant, which inclines one to render to each and to all what belongs to them."

Dear bishops, you have counseled prudence, and when has it gotten our people into? It has accomplished a political victory for some, and a political defeat for others. It has also done wonders of the Church's doctrine, sown discord and confusion among the faithful, you have been hailed, even as those praising you prepared to use further confusion and discord. But are told, "The Catholic doctrine of justice will be found one of the most orthographic of rules, peace and progress. With even balance, it equally favours all and presses unduly on none. It gives the State ample authority for the attainment of its legitimate end, while it effectually bars the road to tyranny and violence."

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Comments and visits at www.quezon.ph/blog

Bamboos, carabaos and a whiff of fresh air

ment in has been serious and said about us Filipinos: that we have challenged culture, that we are a stressed people, that we are endless like the bamboo, and tolerant of suffering and abuse to the point of resembling the carabao.

If only we do not resist strongly to whatever ugly or wrong that is done to us as a people; are sadly lax in critics even when injustice is done directly to us, and we allow ourselves to be led by the nose even when we know we are headed toward disaster. Indeed, like bamboos and carabaos.

Then, it was like a whiff of fresh air hearing to when young members of the House of Representatives, despite the odds and just mere protocol, stood up for their principles in the discussion on impeachment. Recently, a group of young soldiers rendered opulent service to the armed forces. Aviators, professors and businessmen are demanding change in the government.

I think it is unusual for all of us Filipinos to change ourselves now, our values, our attitudes. The crisis we are facing as a people is probably the trouble we need to change ourselves.

I pray that one of the values of our old selves, something with courage to do what is right for our country and people, me, not from the diminished expectations that I am only for their personal interests or the country's expenses. It should be somebody more an ordinary person, with courage to guide our ship of state safely through dangerous waters.

The MRT was stalled by an overheat train and narrowed the gene flood. The Charter was ravaged by pre-Kindergarten is rural.

—ARMANDO CABARRUS
11 Bowling Ave., Bowling Avenue, Las Piñas City

No cash advances; firm not sequestered

I WRITE in reply to the column of Victor C. Agnacio, which appeared in the Sept. 1 issue of the business.

In that article, I was accused, without basis, of taking out a cash advance of P500 million from a purportedly sequestered corporation. Nothing can be further from the truth. I did not avail myself of any cash advances from Philamlife Holdings Corp. and its company is not a sequestered corporation. It is in fact a publicly listed corporation with several shareholders. For the record, the shares of the corporation are finally traded on the market.

Regarding the transaction referred to in the latter which involving certain pieces of property along Commonwealth Drive, Madrigal Business Park in Alabang, it was in fact approved by the board of directors of the investment corporation and subsequently ratified by its shareholders.

Also, in the article I had the transaction is fully implemented, as member of the Ayala family will end up owning Philamlife. Clearly all the assertions in his column were a product of his speculation and misinterpretation.

The facts being how they, I trust that the appropriate rectification on this matter shall be made.

—BENITO M. ARANETA,
SVP, Ayala Land Inc.,
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

Trust a cheater?

I JUST want to give my comments on some points raised in the blog, "Extended" by Inquirer, which was titled "Suspense."

I agree that the opposition senators should have really worked hard in convincing their colleagues to vote Erin. As the saying in politics run, they should have a clear cut with strong evidence to convict Senator Enrile's motion.

But, for my part, I also want Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to resign or be impeached, for how would we ever assemble who insist on by choosing to be dictator?

—MARIA MONTEMAYOR,
201 12 Bandera St., North Olympus,
Senaliche, Quezon City

From Naujan, Mindoro

In connection with the column of Rina Jimenez-David, which was titled "Life in a fishbowl" (PDI, 8/23/10), we wish to clarify that Jolly Ting, a very successful businessman, is a native of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro and not of Calapan City.

His brother, Gomer, was my classmate in Elementary in Naujan.

—RUTH R. MARTEL,
MBA Grad, Mabalacat, Pampanga City

Across the NATION

Bishop turns down food from Batangas governor

LIPA CITY—ON THESE DAYS OF CONVERSION, reparation and consecration, food bought by illegal "jueteng" money is a big no-no for the praying populace.

Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles points the urged members of the archdiocese not to accept the packed food that was sponsored by Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez for today's National Day of Prayer and Conversion at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel convent here.

Arguelles said many people had called him up about Sanchez's sponsored food for the event, which they thought was not good for the Church.

Sanchez has been identified in Senate hearings on the illegal numbers racket as the jueteng [illegible] in Batangas.

"Many people inquired from me if it is true that the governor was sponsoring food for women's affair," Arguelles said the letters were cheyllecue yesterday.

Sister Celina, a nun from the archdiocese, confirmed the information.

"Upon serious reflection, especially in the current situation allegations about the Church accepting donations from questionable sources, may I respectfully ask the proper person to inform the donors that we are grateful for the goodwill but we regret to refrain from accepting the offer," Arguelles said.

Last week, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. released papers indicating that the company had raised around million of pesos to the Catholic Church.

This, despite the Church's activities against gambling.

Day of fasting

Arguelles said people were not even encouraged to eat too much during the celebration.

"In the first place, we encourage the people to fast during the National Day of Prayer and Conversion. If they need food, they can buy from the poor beneficiaries of Pondong Batangan," the archbishop said.

Sid Lerves Bonaldo Gomez, provincial administrator, said the refusal to accept the packed food was unfair for the governor.

In a text message to the archbishop, Gomez said Sanchez didn't offer to bring the food.

"The governor never offered to bring the food. He was asked to sponsor the 2,000 food packs. This is quite unfair to him," Gomez said.

He, who asked Sanchez to bring the food?

Arguelles said the archdiocese and the organizing committee had not asked the provincial government for such favor. "We have never authorized anyone to make such request."

He said they were expecting more than 10,000 people to attend the National Day of Prayer.

—Mel Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CAP bigwigs ask plan holders to seek SEC leniency

BAGUIO CITY—OFFICIALS OF THE College Assurance Plan on Saturday asked plan holders in Northern Luzon to pressure the Securities and Exchange Commission into giving the pyramid firm leniency to enable it to sell its frozen assets and pay its obligations by 2008.

A group of plan holders gathered at a hotel for the launching of the mutual fund agency CAP Intergrowth.

Teresita Alcaraz, a Baguio-based plan holder, expressed more than 2,000 CAP plan holders in the city to march on Saturday, Sept. 24, to protest the inability of its then representatives were allowed to speak to CAP officials.

Jose Montecas, CAP mutual fund president, told Alcaraz that selling CAP assets to the pre-need firm's immediate solution to its financial [illegible] is not feasible.

Reports place this shortfall at P17 billion, which is computed from its reinstated P20-billion liability.

Out of the CAP plan holders who participated in the picket on Saturday, [illegible].

Describing herself as a retired farmer, the plan holder said the pyramid all her savings in other pre-need firm's for a grand children.

"I have nothing more to give them [now that CAP is unable to meet their commitments]," she said.

Alcaraz said she was tipped off about the CAP meeting here when [illegible] attended by the [illegible] Rivera's founder, Ernesto Sabangada.

CAP security personnel refused to confirm Sabangada's presence.

Montecas refused to meet with reporters and CAP officials were not available to confirm Alcaraz's version of their dialogue.

Alcaraz said Montecas asked the plan holders for a few days to prepare an offer to CAP's creditors under the declaration of a Hitherto Proposed Trial Court regarding their petition to pursue an eight-year rehabilitation plan instead of a SEC-supervised management method.

The SEC has suspended CAP's dealer license over allegations that it misused dollars to [illegible].

[illegible] told the CAP will not reimburse SEC directly. "As he asked us to individually send SEC a telegram to inform them to liquidate their [illegible] should the court rule against CAP," she said.

"The holders really have no choice but to wait. They told us it's really out garnish, but we have to work hand in hand," Alcaraz said.

If the scenario is CAP loses its case, [illegible] which is to begin processing the SEC into granting CAP [illegible] as it can negotiate [illegible] with new investors [illegible] because no revenue is flowing into CAP," she said.

Alcaraz said they were told that 70 percent of CAP's plan holders have stopped paying their investment dues, and the remaining 30 percent of plan holders pay intermittently because of the credibility issues SEC raised against all pre-need firms.

But plan holders are studying their options. Alcaraz admitted [illegible] presentation of the firm. Vincent Gutierrez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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Tourist arrivals rose–Durano

BAGA CITY—DESPITE THE PERCEPtion of a dwindling the country, the number of foreign tourists increased by 24 percent from January to July, according to Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano.

Durano, who was here to open the week-long third version of "Wow Philippines!" Quezon, mentioned that the political turmoil had not affected the tourism industry of the Philippines.

Without citing exact figures, he claimed that tourists from Japan, China and Korea knew that the conflict involved other political republics affected only Metro Manila.

Southern Tagalog and Bicol were among the regions that benefited from the increasing influx of foreign tourists, he said.

Bicol was also becoming a major tourist destination with Lake Buhi and the islets of Camarines, aside from the mainstay Mayon Volcano, growing popularity.

In a simple ceremony held at Plaza Rizal here, he declared the pocket-sized held unregulated by the Bat-Man presidential proclamation as an eco-tourism area.

Among several [illegible] was recognized by the association [illegible] Committee of San Mar are the Bulusog Twin Falls, Bat Sanctuary, Inang Mahawang Mud Pool and Magsaysay Lake.

The 120-megawatt geothermal production field located in the boundary of Bacon, Sorsogon and Manito, Albay started its operation in 1996.

The location of the geothermal field [illegible] also provides a vantage view of Mayon Volcano, Albay Gulf, Bulusan Volcano and Lake [illegible].

—Jane Rosendes Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Lepanto strike ends with ritual

MARIKINA, BENGUET—THE more than three-month old strike at Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. (LCMC) here ended on Saturday as representatives of the Lepanto Employees Union (LEU) and the firm signed an agreement that resolved issues on benefits, wages and the dismissal of union officials.

The barricades set up by workers at LCMC mill sites on June 2 was lifted yesterday after union leaders and members of the Bilibang Mesa Una performed a ritual thanksgiving feast. The striking employees agreed to return to work today.

Presidential Assistant for Cordillera Affairs Thomas Killip, who mediated in the negotiations between the union and management, said the memorandum of agreement declared that the strike officially ended.

But Killip said the agreement would not influence ongoing talks about the firm's collective bargaining agreement (CBA).

The union has accepted the Department of Labor and Employment's decision to raise wages to P23 this year, P26 in 2006, and P27 in 2007. The decision was issued two weeks into the strike.

The increase will be implemented once LCMC and the union finalized their CBA.

The 19 union officers who were earlier dismissed by the company accepted the firm's decision, saying they sacrificed their jobs so the 1,600 other striking workers could return to work.

Wilson Langagan, LEU president said among those discharged, said it became clear that the longer they pursued the strike, "the bigger the possibility that more workers would be terminated."

Langagan signed the settlement documents with union director Ronald Madlan, and union members, Julio Papsi Jr., Moreno Dilen, Julio Pawilen, Rodrigo Tigwet and Lawrence Fareng.

LCMC lawyers Ronald Bocdoro and Teddy Tagaysay, who assisted the negotiations from the company's Marikina office, signed the agreement on behalf of the mining firm.

Leo Dasuera, IOMU national vice chair, and Lorino Pajopir Jr., IOMU Cordillera coordinator, also signed the document as witnesses.

Gleniza Fareng, wife of union member Fareng, said she prayed the 19 union officials who won't get their jobs back.

"The strike was a consensus among all LEU members and not just the officers, so we see how that they are taking the blame for this," she told the reporters.

But sources said the LEU officers would be granted severance pay as an expression of the firm's goodwill.

The MOA that resolved the strike was the product of a "final backdoors session" that was undertaken by Killip in Manila early this month.

The settlement compels the LEU and LCMC to "foster industrial peace, (allow) unhampered operations and promote productivity." It asks the union "not [to] take actions that shall endanger industrial peace."

The documents also compels LCMC not to take "retaliatory action" against union members who will be returning to work today.

It stated that other employees who were dismissed during the strike would be reinstated.

The MOA asked both the LEU and LCMC to withdraw any pending criminal or civil suit as a result of the labor conflict. Beatrice Cobian, *PDI Part-Time Lyceum Bureau*

Negros execs create Asia's 'organic food island'

BACOLOD CITY—GOVERNOR Joseph Marañon of Negros Occidental and George Arroyo of Negros Oriental have signed the articles of incorporation for a foundation that will make Negros to launch the "Organic Food Island of Asia."

The governors asked the members of incorporation at the Capitol here on Tuesday for the creation of the Negros Island Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Foundation.

"We wished to have an inland region but we have realized a centralized project [that will create] more jobs," he said.

He said that the foundation will make Negros the "Organic Food Island of Asia," by producing organic poultry, livestock, sugar and fertilizer."

On Aug. 9, both governors signed a memorandum of agreement for the Negros Island Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Program in the province of Presidential Municipal Settlers in Don Salvador Benedicto town in Negros Oriental.

One of its mid-term visions is to train 1.5 percent or about 10,000 hectares of the island's agricultural land for organic production, said Association Edgardo Gerbaca, a member of the foundation's board of trustees.

Among its projects will be the establishment of the Negros Agribusiness Processing Zone in Sagay City in Negros Occidental that will have a 170-hectare model site for sustainable development, he said.

Some of the goals of the foundation are to create 200,000 job opportunities, make Negros the Center of the Southeast Asia Organic Training Center and export organic processed food to Japan, Europe, the United States and Australia, Gerbaca said.

He said Negros Island wants all to tap into the organic food world market that owns $22 billion a year. *Carla P. Gomez and Alex V. Pal, AIM Mancom Bureau*

Hot lumber seized in Quezon

LUCENA CITY—TWO WEEKS AFTER GOVernment forces foiled the attempted smuggling of P4 million worth of illegal lumber in Atimonan, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Quezon on Wednesday confiscated another stock of illegally cut lumber worth P1 million in the same coastal town, 157 km southeast of Manila.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada said in a report that police and CIDG officials raided the illegal wood stockpile in Barangay Bulo-bulo, reportedly owned by village chief Edgardo Ola.

The report said 400 pieces of assorted hardwood species with an estimated volume of 35,000 board feet were found floating in the nearby Mamala River.

Rizalito Recio, provincial environment and natural resources officer (Penro), however, said only 250 pieces of lumber were seized.

He suspected that the raiders were allegedly cut in the mountains between General Nakar town and Dingalan, Aurora, and were transported to Atimonan by raphsody from the Pan-for Ocean.

Authorities believed a big-time financier could be behind the illegal logging.

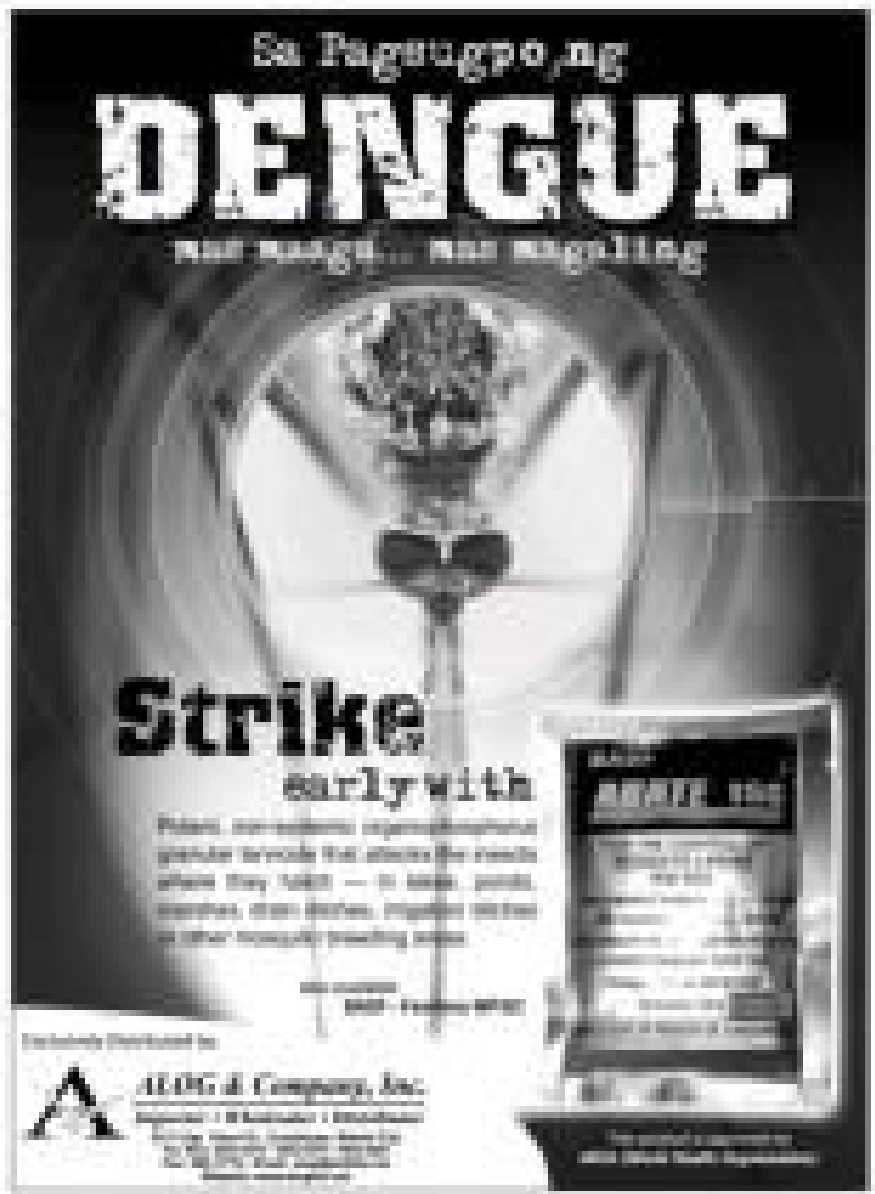
Last year, Quezon board member Eladio Piccardo, a native of Atimonan, revealed the existence of the "Atimonan Boys," an illegal logging syndicate based in the coastal town in the southern tip of the Bicol Region.

Meanwhile, the provincial environment officials ordered Lieutenant Colonel Rolando Bellosura to conduct an investigation on the illegal logging in connivance with the police and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

Mayor Fernando Limson said the Association of Barangay Captains have spoken over the radio of the town's police chief, Insp. Reynaldo Reyes III.

"We've done our police job. We've coordinated our intelligence work for the seizure of the operation. We're already filed the appropriate criminal charges in court. Now who are the investigators against us or if we're the culprit?" Reyes lamented.

Bellosura, who imposed a log ban nationwide except for those exports, accused the Atimonan police of inspection and involvement in the transport of illegal logs. *Rudjiv E. Mallari, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



Rose petals, confetti shower on Junjie funeral

By Hazel P. Villa
PDI Project Reporter

ILOILO CITY—THE FLAMBOYANT governor Bernardo "Junjie" Jarvel-lana Lopez Jr., successor of the former Philippine Vice President, would have surely approved of the decent of flowers from a Cessna plane and the shots of affection from family and friends during his wake and interment.

Lopez Jr., 73, died of complications from diabetes that followed a massive stroke last semester of the year as reported earlier in the Iloilo Mission Hospital on Sept. 6.

Seven other Lopez sisters, hospitalized and death-quite captivated by emotions, also have been stunned to see a decade's show of his capabilities, his benevolence, and unremitting "downfall" from overpowering.

Family members led by former Iloilo Rep. Alberto Lopez Sr., 72, friend Lopez Jr.'s eldest continued to air 9:30-P. before motorcade about very at the Lopez Family Mausoleum in San Vicente cemeteries at 10:30 a.m.

Most 200 relatives, friends, and employees from Lopez-owned companies attended the necessary rites officiated by Fr. Rodolfo Nagtas, chaplain of the family-owned University of Iloilo.

The closing first was for a call by from the billionaire's brother had visited his wake from Wednesday until Saturday evening where his cremated remains were brought back from Cebu City.

Based on the amount of food served in the four-day wake, officials, including relatives, who paid their last respects numbered more than a thousand, said Allura Lopez-Montelibano, a grand niece of Lopez Jr.

Rose petals

The interment was highlighted by a shower of confetti and 250 kilos of rose petals on the funeral cortege of Lopez Jr. from the St. Clements Church to La Paz Dis-trict last Friday all the way to the MV Ann Philippines in Port Area Iloilo City that brought his remains to Cebu early a.m. of the same day.

The body of Lopez Jr. was removed at the Gilbs Rolling Hill Memorial Chapels Inc. in Mandaue City from 12:45 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Meeting his wife's 9:30 a.m. Saturday of the other and accompanying it to Rolling Hills were nephew Nelson Lopez Padilla, president of Solar Electric Co. Inc., and niece-in-law Jacob Quiñonez-Wiles, family friends Tess and Dave Griffin, and the Lopez family aides.

Padilla and Wiles brought back the remains after an overnight the Lopez elder's relatives Iloilo at 5 p.m. on the same day via Cebu Pacific.

Padilla, carrying the urn, was welcomed at the tarmac by a phalanx of fatigue-clad honor guards from the Lopez-owned University of Iloilo who walked him all the way to the exit gate of the Iloilo airport.

A convoy of cars accompanied the hearse and company to the Lopez family cohesive mansion in La Paz. There were where a Mass was held at the family chapel at 7 p.m.

Emily Pulido-Lopez, former Guimaras governor and widow-law of Lopez Jr. said the family decided on cremation because it was the most hygienic and the modern way claiming that Lopez Jr. never objected to his being cremated during recent family conversations in the past.

Lopez Jr.'s remains was also transported to Cebu via ship because he was afraid of heights and although sitting on a plane makes extremely uncomfortable and if ever he did, he took along a bagful of medicines to allay his nervousness, said Allura Lopez-Montelibano, one of his frequent travel companions.

Net penalties

Alberto Lopez Jr. brushed away reports that his brothers had penalties.

"You can't say he was broke. He had a hundred million pesos left when he died. The money is with the family," said Alberto on Thursday evening.

He explained that his elder brother had a share of P100 million from many individual estate of Lopez Jr. Remainder Sr. and P25 million in a trust fund for his old age, hospitalization and other needs.

"These were cut given to him because he will surely dissipate it in a week. We don't know how long he would live and we are convinced that he would have something to use in the last years of his life," said Alberto Sr.

He added that in the days his brother claimed he was broke, Lopez Jr. was actually overseeing all transactions from his virtual fund and product money-ins from Allure, appliances, airwear and other relatives.

The same fund had also took care of his daily needs, groceries, medicines and other incidentals, said Alberto Sr., but this amount was not to the ground scale of his brother's estimates.

Ten Lopez family members lived in Manila from the time of Rafaela Lopez Sr., the former vice president's only brother, attended the Sept. 9 neurological Mass at 2 p.m. in Iloilo officiated by Jaro archbishop Angel Lagdameo.

HONOR. Jose de Rosis Robert Lopez Pardavé, nephew of the late Fernando Lopez Jr., on his car-ries the urn with his uncle's ashes as it arrives for the afternoon-after disembarking from a plane from Cebu where the elder Lopez was cremated. PDI PHOTO

Augusto Sr.'s son Oscar Lopez, chair of the board of Benfres Holdings and First Philippine Holdings were with his sister Patsy Lopez-Fernandez.

They both waited before interment at the Iloilo airport in Mandaue to on board a 12-seater Low Air private plane and returned to Manila right after the neurological service that ended at 5:30 p.m.

Among Lopez Jr.'s memory items, Lopez Jr. owned a 28-foot long white Lincoln Town Car stretch limousine costing about P6 million at current prices, a wrought-iron Cinderella type carriage drawn by two white stallions both are used more than eight hours.

Withdrawals

He inherited part of his late father's P1,250 billion inheritance money when the latter died on May 26, 1993.

A few allies on our could stop Some of from a family spending spree. The billionaire also drew funds it's passbook from the Bank of the Philippine Islands dated January 1998 to March 1999 which showed that his biggest balance was P40 million and the least was P6 million.

His biggest withdrawal was P1.3 million on March 1998 which is the average withdrawal on one given day was from P250,000 to P500,000. Aides said Lopez Jr. had many passbooks.

Relatives Lopez said that while he's brother-in-law spent much on luxury items, he also spent as much for charitable of many poor people, setting up foundations for them and even spending for the chemotherapy of several cancer patients.

"He has a big heart for the poor, which he got from his mother and father. He showed it where he lived with others," said Rebecka Lopez.

Limousine

However in 1992, when most of his businesses were running out, he sold his stretch limousine to former Iloilo City councilor and businessman Pascual "Tato" Espinosa for P300,000. A Lopez source said the original price of the vintage was double its selling price.

The Lincoln Town car-stretch limousine was sold off by P300,000 to Dr. Antonio Chu, a businessman who lives on Araneta Street, in June 2002, said Rey Bravo, the body guard of Lopez Jr. in the last 20 years.

Just last month, Lopez Jr. reportedly bought from the Imperial P1.3 million from Chu to which the deal was signed. But the Lopez estate had never produce the money.

Padilla said the foundation's annual worth was P1.375 million, including taxes and freights. It was bought from a Manila sporting in 1996. At current prices, it is worth about P4-million, he said.

Style.
Urban Living.
Pop Culture.
Entertainment.
Recreation.

ROUNDUP

40 in N. Cotabato observed for rabies

KIDAPAWAN CITY—At least 40 people in Magpet, North Cotabato have been observed for possible rabies infection by health authorities after having been the result of suspected rabid dog this week. Two weeks ago, the dog bit its owner, Teresita Espinosa, who died on Sept. 2 Authorities said the symptoms indicate the dog bite days before Espinosa died.

Some residents in the village panicked and wanted to slaughter said they were not aware that Espinosa died of rabies. "We have been getting dog meat for quite sometime now so we did not hesitate to cook Espinosa's dog," the town said. Dr. Estela Gonzaga, North Cotabato provincial administrator, said those who slaughtered, cooked and consumed the dog would now also undergo observation. Magpet Mayor Franz Pelal Jr. appealed to those who ate the dog recently stop home treatment and medical attention. He said the municipal government is requesting P200,000 to help the residents treat the bite for rabies vaccination.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Ex-mayor's stay suspect yields after 5 yrs

CAMP OLIVES, Pampanga—One of three suspected killers of a city councilor in Bulacan seized five years ago surrendered on Thursday to Gen. Rolland Jacinto and Chief Supt. Reginaldo Lapuz, Central Luzon police director, respectively said. The suspect, former PO1 Rodolfo de la Cruz, gave himself up after a month-long negotiation with Olongapo City officials through his relatives. He is on record, former PO1 Fabe, believed to have been a retired in the United States and is facing deportation. The two were accused of murdering former Bataan Provincial Board Member Eddie Bermudez Tiongco, his driver and bodyguard in the Bataan Provincial Capitol on January 2, 2000 at Barangay Bagong in Angat, Bulacan. Police said the arrest of the two suspects carried a reward of P500,000 each or three total. Jerry Fajardo claimed innocence and told police he did not intend not for the slayings, said Senior Supt. Perfecto Palad, operations chief of the regional police.

Timothy Dugao, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Solon, 4 others hurt in mishap

CAGAYAN CITY—Isabela Rep. Faustino Dy III and four others, including his son, were hurt on Sept. 4 when their car collided in a head-on crash with the sidewall highway at Gattaran, Cagayan province, Dy, Cagayan and two security aides suffered only minor bruises while driver Noel Pascual suffered the brunt of the impact. Dy's son Faustino Dy IV, 18, was driving the car when the accident occurred at 2:30 p.m. the said that the car collided with a truck driven by Ronnie Ruiz, 34, of Barangay Bagumbayan in Gattaran. Police said Ruiz was driving at a high speed when the accident occurred. Dy and his companions were brought to the provincial hospital in Tuguegarao City for treatment.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

8 Maguindanao execs, 54

ALLEBEL, Cotabato—The Ombudsman-Mindanao group, which has charged several Muslim provincial officials with graft, committed missing criminal records of 10 of them. On Sept. 14, Kad Maglinsing, 54, chief of the Municipal Peace Action Employees and Rural Development Organization, was recommended in the summary of only criminal indictment from the 10 officials in the province. Along with other officials of Sharif Aguak, Maguindanao, including the filing of administrative and criminal complaints against former vice governor Nelson Dandamun. On June 30 the Committee on Civil Service and Personnel of the provincial officials and employees for the PDP-Laban local elections in Sharif Aguak, Maguindanao, Dandamun, Sharif Aguak mayor Datu Abed Maglinsing as a non-member of local. "We did not only commit to be loyal but struggled with the people," he said.

Apollo Lucas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

1 Siquijor; 66

SIQUIJOR, Siquijor—Mayor Vicky Siquijor died after a shot fired at his house in Barangay Centro here on Tuesday morning, his relatives said. He was 66. Siquijor served as mayor in the 1970s and 1980s and was second leadership of the town in 2004. Local government employees in the province of Siquijor are afraid and feared officials. Siquijor is currently the only province.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Energy crisis forces lifestyle change all over RP

Front page B1

he has given up the comfort of his Honda city for a 1.6-liter Toyota sedan.

"I don't mind using a smaller car as long as I can contribute to the economy program," says the chief of staff of the Armed forces of the Philippines.

In true Filipino fashion, Filipinos are finding re-working, using heavy-duty material to make recycles, making scarves for cars, and keeping cars at home to get on buses and jeeps to save money at office.

Defining needs from wants

Because the effects of galloping fuel prices are all-encompassing, the crunch is felt in so many ways. Gasping for many means reconsidering priorities, defining needs from wants and considering do with what's affordable.

Comments like these were typical in a survey the Inquirer conducted using its nationwide network of reporters.

"My sons are stressed instead of LPG—Roland Gibson, Iloilo, Bombo.

"I now use a bicycle instead of motorcycle to save on fuel"—Cesar Agsalo, government employee, Batangas.

"My mom, the member of house watching television and using electric fans"—Evangeline Sipalay-Ian Bel, Bulacan.

Businesses, including foodstuffs, fabrication for urgent patron, lay workers and goods, stores in Cagayan province to help conserve energy by walking or taking public transportation when they need nearby colleges and towns. He also closing premises to turn off unused appliances and lights to churches and terminus.

Even affluent households are practicing prudence.

"Instead of eating in a restaurant outlet any family every Sunday, we opted to have it enjoy ellas amik," says Myanda Bruce, a travel agency manager in Puerto Princesa.

"Instead of buying expensive or branded clothes, I learned to 'tiis' or bar in 'shop-stay' mode," Bruce says.

She used to travel a lot with my husband and child. "Now that gasoline prices going up we decided to cancel my plans and save the money instead," she says.

No more eating out

For Lucy Pacheco, a Pagadian resident, the effects of fuel price hikes are felt in her family's decision to eat out. "Instead of eating out on Sundays, I cooked them favorite so that my family can still eat good food," Pacheco says.

PRICE INCREASE

	2004	2005	Price change
Petroleum products*			
Diesel (per liter)	₱ 13.67	₱ 17.20	26%
Gasoline (per liter)	20.97	33.70	61%
LPG (11-kilo cylinder)	277.00	388.71	40%
	2004	**2005**	**Price change**
Transportation fares*			
Jeepney	₱ 5.50	₱ 7.25	32%
Airfare (per leg)	6.00	8.00	33%
Commuter air fare			
Manila-Davao (1-way)	3,013.00	4,013.00	33%
Manila-Cebu (1-way)	1,413.00	2,013.00	42%
Ferry fare	500	650	30%
Utilities*			
Electricity, generation charge by consumer type (kilowatt-hour)	₱ 4.91 (C)	₱ 7.07 (C)	44%
	150.00	192.50	28%
Water (per cubic meter)			
Food items*	**old price**	**new price**	
Chicken, 1 kg	₱ 65.00	₱ 75.00	15%
Burger, w/ cheese	15.00	20.00	33%
Burger, w/ chicken	15.00	20.00	33%
Chicken 2 pcs	55.00	58.00	5%

*Latest data as of June for LPG, CPI, GDP, GNP, GNI, Exports, Imports, Trade Balance, Foreign Exchange Rate, Gross International Reserves, Money Supply, Interest Rates, Inflation, Unemployment, Underemployment, Poverty Incidence, Population, Labor Force, Employment, Wages, Tourist Arrivals, Overseas Filipino Workers, Remittances, Balance of Payments, Foreign Direct Investments, Portfolio Investments, Foreign Debt, Debt Service Ratio, Budget Deficit, Government Revenues, Government Expenditures, Tax Effort, Tax Collection, Tax Evasion, Tax Exemptions, Tax Incentives, Tax Rates, Tax Base, Tax Reforms, Tax Administration, Tax Compliance, Tax Audit, Tax Litigation, Tax Refunds, Tax Credits, Tax Deductions, Tax Exemptions, Tax Incentives, Tax Rates, Tax Base, Tax Reforms, Tax Administration, Tax Compliance, Tax Audit, Tax Litigation, Tax Refunds, Tax Credits, Tax Deductions

"I own a motorbike and I like to go places from but for sake of the price of gasoline, I stay home and conserve gas," he adds.

Lovely Abalit, a retail clerk in Pagadian, complains: "My boyfriend doesn't take me to expensive restaurants anymore. Instead, he takes us to restaurants where we are not far from our house."

Nancy Dorequito, an accountant in Cagayan de Oro City, says she used to prepare more meals in our home.

"We reduced it to only two," says Dorequito. "We also stay with dining out, we better spend it for buying food, fish, etc. Watching movies has been reduced, holding too!"

Only one TV set

Gonzalo Aguirre, president of the Davao Island of Islands Enterprises Association in Cagayan de Oro, said that in his company, he always checks the lights are off in rooms where they're not needed.

"Only one television is turned on and the majority's choice of channel will be watched," says Aguirre.

"I used to take a two-cold trade from home to school," says Jehan dino in Catabato City Area. Also raises a 15-minute walk to our right to school.

"I prefer to buy my daily coffee because I have to leave home early. It also gives me the chance to exercise through walking. I have about 20-a day by taking only one coffee to school," Abarquez.

Some businessmen says she and her husband leave the family car at home and take public transport.

"We save some amount for other household expenditures. Added to this is my husband also decided to quit smoking ... by using two kinds with our money improved health and save some amount," says Bernardo, an office worker in Cotabato City.

From private to public school

Emmanuel Trias says that for some customers, his lessons had become expensive.

"Many students, too, complained because the prices of the ingredients for lumpia have doubled," says Trias, a high school student at the Negros National High School in Davao City.

"Marginalized Filipinos are feeling the brunt more. Even the children can't afford to go to school. The sad thing is that government has no formula to address the pressing issues," says Ed Kalaks, spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Spontaneously, parents are moving their children from private to public schools.

"Maybe, I would like to send them to the best schools, I have to find ways to make [both] ends meet for us to survive," says Gigi Basilio, a single mother of two.

A call center agent, Rakhi dialysis for gallon (x) of her children's source. She and her kinds also other children while she's at work.

"I only often my kids to watch television on weekends and we all now sleep in one room to save on electricity. So far so good. It's now a matter," she says.

Ramon Mirkin Cabrer used to sell to retail (1) to produce at Bayo Q-Mart in Cubao, Quezon City, where his sister, Alicia Bonito, presents and ugly plants leached commodity good prices.

One-way last from his for June 200 Monte City home in Bulacan to Bayo Q-Mart was P25 before. It is now P50. It is no longer worth his while to make the trip.

Cabrer now sells his organic kits at the nearby Lucy market, where competition is a little soft. Regular customers Bernardo Jovanadez, Blanchy Rivera, Tina D. Santos, Dona Pilar Jugan, Margaux C. Ortiz, Nancy C. Cornejal and Jocelyn R. Eji on Manila, Michael Sarcongan, Gerardo Fernandez, Edwin O. Fernandez, Dennis Jay C. Santos, Fil Abalonzar Barcena, Julio Garabullon, Rolando Salido Puertas, Cristobal Bernardo, Villamor Hanga Jr., Mylene Asperas, Bonita Bernardino, Joyce Justine Bonito, Ann Mirana Ebron, Lorenzo Andrada Jr. and Encarnacion Cabiles, PBI Northern Luzon Ramon, Rosario Orejas, Gervacio Reyes, Anacleto Bagsac and Cesar Ong Jr. PBI Central Luzon Teodoro and Julito P. Pineda, Ed Hernandez B. Arevalo, Leo Martin B. Gamata, Romulo B. Dizon, Modesto T. Hidalgo, Jr. Belen, Michael Jocelyn, Mel Ringuet and Jose Escandor Jr., PBI Southern Luzon Ramon

Even big business reels from rising fuel prices

By Dante L. Lucas

THE BIG DISHES, CUTTING down on spending fuel spending even comes at a will price. It is well worth it over time, so Dole Philippines Inc. has found out.

Last year, Dole saved P70.6 million, or 5.3 percent of its total, following the implementation of fuel-saving measures, the Expansion of Energy said. These included installation of efficient boilers and upgrading old condensers at southern Luzon sources and water aggregates equipment. (See Special Report on Business, Page B1.)

Service businesses, such as hotels, are also on the conservation bandwagon, the department said.

Last year, Makati Shangri-La Hotel bought a P10-million building management system to shore power efficiency. It established its air-conditioning units and replaced old lamps with more energy efficient versions, among other things.

The use of oil-run vehicles down by 490.7 (2 liters) with 35.24 million for department said.

The new consultant is said—a downtown project of Ayala Land Inc.—spared the use of new 600,000 kilowatts of electricity with the installation of new air-conditioning and water management units.

Since the end of the oil crisis, the Department of Budget and Management has implemented regular monitoring of air-conditioners, encouraged the location of outdoor-type units, installed window blinds to keep out heat, and put in place a no good system for official trips.

Through these measures, the DBM saved P1.14 million last year, equivalent to 94,720 liters of oil.

Some companies are replacing old cutbacks are now company-owned with this, liquid crystal display (LCD) screens. While more expensive to buy, LCD screens are cheaper to operate. They give off less heat, which means lower air-conditioning costs.

Many offices in the Makati and Ortigas business districts are rethinking the use of centralized air-conditioning, escalators and elevators.

Tirol named PDI readers' advocate

Front page B1

Part of her duties will be to call the attention of editors to violations of the Code of Ethics and Inquirer to observe the Canons of Taste. She will receive complaints from readers, news subjects and news sources and will ask the staff members concerned to give their side.

In some cases a correction or clarification will be made; in other cases sanctions may be imposed on the erring staff member.

Tirol will also coordinate with the Philippine Press Council, which receives complaints against the print media, and will act as liaison between readers and the Philippine Press Institute.

Readers may call the readers' advocate at 897-8000, local 345, or send letters to her at readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph or fax 896-8197, 897-8114 and 916 Aduo Roadway Ortigas.

Tirol was the editor of PJR Reports, a media monitoring monthly published by the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, before her appointment as readers' advocate.

She was managing editor and later editor of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine in 1990-96. During the publication's first six months as a news tour period were the Human Rights Forum, media magazine, Assistant newsletter for the Philippine Centennial Commission, women magazine, Inter Press Service Philippines, Mr. & Ms. magazine and the Manila Times Magazine.

She has taught at St. Theresa's College High School, St. Scholastica's College, Philippine Women's University and Ateneo de Manila University's Department of Communication.

Tirol was editor in charge of the Ateneo Library of Women's Heritage Book June 2003 to March 2004 and editorial director of the Office of Research and Publications of the Ateneo from September 1999 to March 2000.

She has written two books, "Public Faces, Private Lives" and "Above the Ground," both published by Anvil Publishing. She has edited 10 books and published dozens of others.

Among the awards Tirol has won are the Catholic Author Award from the main Catholic Publishers Inc. (2002), National Book Award for Journalism from the Manila Critics Circle for "Public Faces, Private Lives" (2001), National Book Award for Reference for "Tears for Edsa" in 1996, and "Coming to Terms" in 1994, and the Golden Achievers Award from the City of Lipa (1997).

Tirol holds a degree of Bachelor of Arts, major in Journalism and English, from St. Theresa's College, Manila and Quezon City.

Valdez

Valdez joined the Inquirer in June 1995. He spearheaded the business development of Job Market in 1998, Libre in 2001 and Just Shop and Sell in 2004.

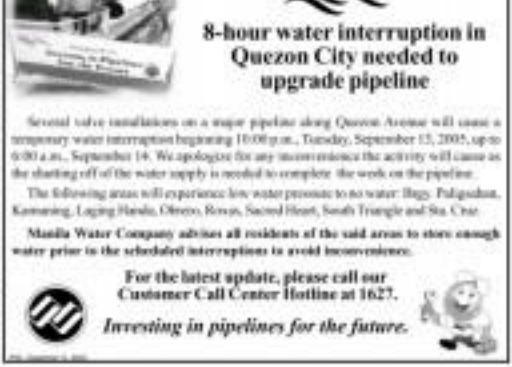
He also led in the redesign of the business into a cleaner format, resulting in a more convenient and cost-effective newspaper.

Before joining the Inquirer, Valdez was marketing manager of the then-national Daily Food Services Inc. He was project consultant of the marketing department of AFM Corp.-Dairy Products Group in 1993-95. He found manager of Pancheado Corp.-Bikom Division, Pakuwan in August 1993, and division manager of the recently-then-spinned Group of PACIFICO Mushroom Inc. in 1991-93.

Valdez holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from the University of the Philippines and a Master in Management degree from De La Salle University-Graduate School of Management.

He was also a faculty member of the economic department of Assumption College in Makati.

As sportsman, Valdez was a volleyball varsity member of Aquinas and Philippine Air from 1981 to 1985 and is the founding president of the Philippine Underwater Hockey Club Inc.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2005

METRO

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Editor Raven G. Dyangani

BATTLE OF THE BANDS STAMPEDE

4 rock fans trampled to death in QC

FOUR YOUNG MEN were trampled to death Saturday night when scores of unruly rock fans stampeded into the Amoranto Stadium in Quezon City where a battle of the bands was taking place.

Four other persons, three women and an 18-year-old man, were brought to hospital for injuries suffered when all hell broke loose at the front Anonas gate of the stadium at about 8:40 p.m.

The victims were among thousands who attended to witness the grand finals of On Fire! Live Rockfestival 2005, a battle of the country's upcoming bands.

Richie Fidelino, a concert organizer, told police that trouble started when the crowd of mainly young men and women became unruly at the gate.

Fidelino told investigator PO2 Joseph Ilito that the fans were no longer inspecting and following the lines leading to the ticket booth and the entrance.

Amid the confusion, organizers decided to close the gates in an effort to bring some order to the crowd.

However, according to Fidelino, many of those in the throng impatiently did not like the move and already fell and that they would no longer be able to get in, so they began pushing forward.

The crowd pushed open the gates and a stampede ensued.

During the mad rush into the stadium, 46-year-do Dino, 38, a resident; Jay-B Cong Quoqui, 24, and two other still unidentified young men were trampled upon.

Simon and De Ono were rushed to the Capitol Medical Center where Simon was declared dead on arrival.

De Ono reportedly died after being somewhat for several hours.

The two unidentified victims were brought to East Avenue Medical Center but failed to resuscitate it in the hospital also.

One of them was described to be between 23-25 years old, about 5'5" in height, medium built, hair shaved, and wearing dog tag pants and a black shirt.

Seven others were injured.

Police identified four of those hurt as Jonathan Bermudez, 21, of Antipolo City; Shaylyn Bello, 15, and Joseph Mendoza, 19, both of Marikina City; and Edward Angelo Barrera, 16, of San Pedro, Laguna.

But while the situation outside the stadium was described as "wild," the atmosphere inside was considered "normal for a rock concert."

"It was a mob. There was little that the 60-70 guards could do to control the crowd," said Quezon City Police District director Chief Supt. Vicente Ballesteros Jr.

The venue could hold as many as 15,000 guests. Fidelino said that at the time of the stampede only 10,000 tickets had been sold.

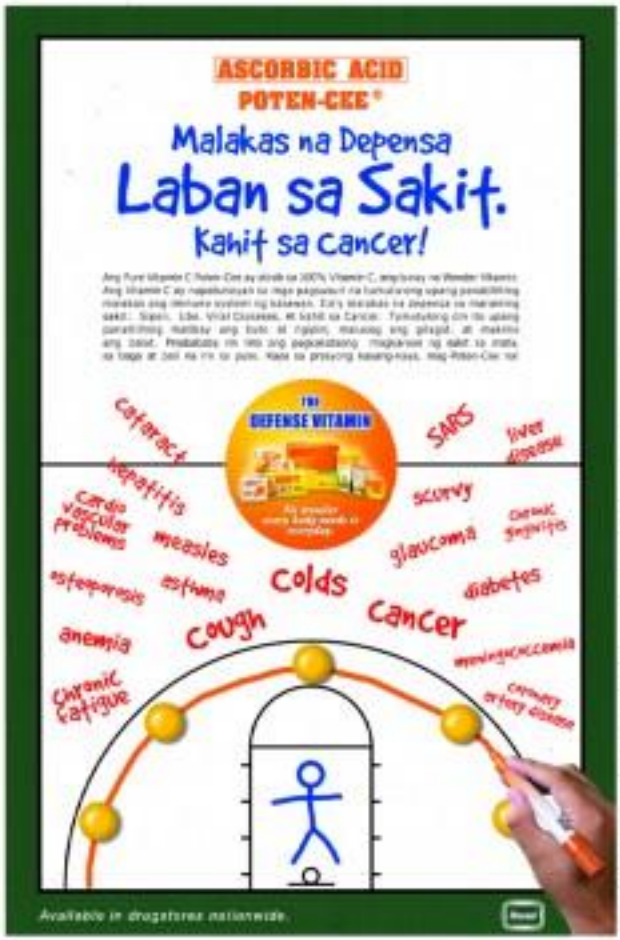
Southern manager Indy Agustin said that there were still "thousands" of people, mostly in black shirts and pants, outside the venue at that time.

Many were reportedly beer-tripping in protest to by going over the fences.

Ilito said the crowd outside the venue became so unruly that hundreds of police and other emergency personnel, including the police assistance unit, had to be called in to control the situation.

The concert, featuring rock bands like Rhapsomania, Queso, Bamboozer, Greyhounds, as well as the contest finalists, went on from 2:30 p.m., Saturday until 2:30 a.m., Sunday.

ROCK-HARD Antagonization (contrast) two different bands battling it on stage is etched on many of the faces of those fans trying to get into the Amoranto Stadium by scaling a fence.



Marikina hero-cops remembered in rites

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SOBBING SISTERS SHIELDED what the late people clap when her husband's name was announced.

The 35-year-old widow was here last her husband but the memory of his heroism lives on.

Her husband SPO3 Victor Santiago was killed in May 2001. He was returning at a gasoline station when a passenger jeep carry top soldiers passed by.

The policemen was after the soldiers but the soldiers shot him, killing him on the spot. His daughter Monica was just 11 months old then.

"I am glad that his name was not returned, unlike the fate of other policemen who have already been forgotten," Rosario said in tribute.

Her husband is buried at the Home Ground at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City, a limited site reserved for police men killed in line of duty.

Honored

PO3 Santiago was among those honored during the Police Memorial Day in Marikina City yesterday.

The annual celebration is held every second Sunday of September to pay tribute to policemen who made the supreme sacrifice serving the city.

The event started in the at ceremony with a parade from city hall.

"Through this event, we would like to show our commitment to the importance of our police heroes. They are heroes and we should treasure them," Marikina Mayor Bayani Fernando said in Filipino.

National Police Chief Director Gen. Arturo Lomibao led police officials who attended the event.

Free space

The Marikina City government has been giving free spaces at the commercial malls for policemen who had served the city for at least five years. The practice began in 1972 with a cease-fire donation.

Noble Dust Santiago, also buried at the Home Ground are Senior Inspector Antonio Cpl. Ernesto Lopez, Cpl. Melvin Lanuza Jr., Cpl. Magtanggol B. Gonzales and Gen. Carlos C. Javier.

Nearly six more than 90 graves of policemen who died of natural causes.

To honor their memory, the city also started holding the Police Memorial Day several years ago.

"This is to honor our policemen who made the supreme sacrifice. They serve as an inspiration to all police officers," Lomibao said.

To satisfactory work, which was "in service of God, country and people" was "incomparable to other professions."

The police has long been haunted by a bad public image. Policemen and officers are usually perceived to be corrupt.

Worker jumps off mall, survives fall

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SHOPPERS IN A PUBLIC MALL in Mandaluyong City were shocked yesterday noon when they saw a man plummeting several floors down and crashing onto the cold, hard pavement of the commodity on the ground floor.

No bones were shattered, but police said Brenda Dyangani survived the fall.

Dyangani is a 28-year-old construction worker from Barangay Tejeros in Makati City, was reported in critical condition at the The Medical City as of yesterday afternoon.

PO2 Hector Sean told the Inquirer that Dyangani was seen walking near a ledge more on the 10th level of the Shangri-La Mall in corner Shaw Boulevard and Edsa yesterday noon.

Suddenly, according to a security guard, the man is a white shirt and a pair of jeans climbed over a railing and jumped off.

Dyangani landed near Bantay Department Store, Aspa added.

The security guard who rushed the man to the hospital told the police that he overheard Dyangani say, "Bakit pa ako nabuhay?"

Dyangani worked as a construction worker for The Mondragon Group, Aspa said.

Mandaluyong City police chief Senior Supt. Elmer Monsod said they had ruled out any foul play in the apparent suicide try.

When is a pile of trash a good thing to see?

SETTING their hands dirty, students of the City of Malabon University recap the roadside along C4 Road in a cleanup drive in Barangay Longos.

By DJ Yap

IT WAS PROBABLY ONE OF THE times when stacks of rotting garbage was a good thing to see.

It was none in Barangay Longos, Malabon City, and the sacks of trash were waiting for pick up by garbage collectors.

Armed with broomsticks, sacks and dustpans, hundreds of residents of the City of Malabon University around Barangay Longos yesterday to rid the community of garbage.

In a barangay where garbage literally trudged the main roads, solid waste is a big problem, particularly since mallows and side streets, said university president Ronnie Rosas.

The residents have become used to leaving heaps and mounds of garbage outside their homes without making sure they were collected at all, she said. As a result, plastic bottles, discarded newspapers and other household waste littered the barangay Rosas added.

Through the cleanup drive, Rosas expressed hope that the community would be aware of the problems and begin to address it by segregating waste at home.

More than 1,000 students enrolled in the Civic Welfare Training Service under the National Service Training Program participated in the cleaning of at least 40 blocks of the 196-hectare barangay, she said.

The students also distributed leaflets on proper waste management, Rosas said.

Eleven-year-old Shane Villanueva said her group alone managed to fill at least 10 sacks of refuse. She said the project might encourage residents to be more mindful of the need to keep their communities clean.

But Rhodessa Mercao, 17, said not everyone embraced the cleanup.

"Some of the men did not like it when they saw us sweeping the front of their house," she said.

The team told the barangay administration chairman that it was their property, and they were keeping it clean.

Despite some unfavorable reactions, Rosas said the CWTS project would continue, and quite possibly even involve the whole city. Promoting awareness in the community about the garbage problem, as well as the ways to recycle, can go a long way, she said.

QC barangay chair faces raps for graft

A BARANGAY CHAIRMAN IN Culiat, Quezon City is facing malfeasance and graft charges for his alleged malpractice of P750,000 in unused funds for a drainage rehabilitation project.

Barangay Secretary Abdul Hamid Rallon was charged with malfeasance and violating the antigraft and corrupt practices law before the Quezon City prosecutor's office last week.

In his complaint, Engineer Ildefonso Acosta Jr. cited a May 27, 2002, report by the Commission on Audit for 2001-2002.

Culi had ordered the barangay to refund P732,168 of a P2.5 million drainage project on 12th Avenue, Acosta said.

The project was certified completed but an investigation by the city reportedly showed it was only 71 percent complete. (R) Ng

MMDA starts tagging buses for OBR plan

By Terry V. Quiamzade

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority (MMDA) would be spending the better part of the month counting the metro's buses, in preparation for the full implementation of its long-held-up Organized Bus Route (OBR) scheme.

Doubling as an effort to crack down on scalpers, or illegally operating buses, the MMDA started putting OBR tags on city operating buses on Saturday, to mark them as night-fast and organized participants in the OBR, a limited bus dispatch system.

"This is one way of identifying and getting rid of colorum buses. We have scheduled tagging of buses in given commuter through out the month," said MMDA Deputy Chief Oscar Larosa.

All buses plying routes in Metro Manila must get tags, said Larosa. The tags, he added, will serve as a license of sorts to participate in the OBR, a system that would restrict the dispatch of buses in MMDA-established terminals.

The OBR, initially implemented on an experimental basis in December 2003, would place buses under controlled "first out, first off" dispatch to decrease bus volume on Edsa. Frequency of dispatch would be based on the number of commuters waiting for a ride on the thoroughfare, thus maximizing passenger loading at a given time while cutting down on fuel cost.

For the scheme's full implementation, considered timely amid the global oil crisis, the MMDA has established terminals at its route endpoints: Navotas, Balintawak, Novaliches, Fairview, Alabang, and Baclaran.

"Drivers cannot pass through out terminals if they do not have tags, and our enforcers will eventually see that," said Angelito Angel de Dios, MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director.

Each tag, tamper-proofed and marked as authentic by unique bar codes, would only be given to buses with proper documents from the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, said the traffic chief.

Makati wants to hear traders

By Terry V. Quiamzade

MAKATI BUSINESSMEN CAN do more than just road protests if the proposed new zone code hit the city.

The Makati City Council said before the weekend that it would welcome comments and suggestions on the draft zone ordinance. Businessmen have voiced out would-be effects to the proposed amendments on the proposal.

"Companies with lines of businesses that would be affected may submit their comments/proposals after scheduled hearings," said Council Secretary Rogelio Menaguscos Singson.

Menaguscos said position papers from concerned firms may be given to the Council secretariat for local consideration before they deliberate on the new revenue code in November.

"Next January, the City Council will consider all recommendations," said Makati Vice Mayor and Council presiding officer Ernesto Mercado, Jr., in a statement.

Under the proposed revenue code, the city would be allowing its business tax rates from municipal level to cap level for the first time since 1992, with increases ranging from 10 percent to at least double the existing levels.

Tax levels have since been the same, even while Makati became a chartered city in 1995.

Re-insurer, banks and financial institutions currently paying 0.15 percent of the previous year's gross receipts as tax to the city would pay up to 0.5 percent, since the new revenue code takes effect.

Five-star hotels, which are many in the city, would meanwhile be paying 0.75 percent of their gross sales or receipts for the concluded year with the 1st adjustment, from the current 0.5 percent.

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'Rock Star' down to four survivors

"ROCK STAR" ON STAR WORLD WAS evoked by the elimination of Ty Tinhol, one of the talent month's hero hero. He fans were stunned because Ty used to be one of the strongest finalists in the early rounds of the competition. Now that the tilt is down to only a few contenders, however, all of the surviving talents are exceptional performers, so even the best can't be assured of winning the full course.

Aside from his vaporware voice and fine performing chops, Ty boasts of a unique "Apache" plume of hair running up and down the center of his otherwise shaven noggin.

It's the most evocable thanks we've seen or seen: Ty sometimes wears it as is, but at other times he styles it to look like a series of pointy dagger tips, or heaps it to look less tucked, or solves it to suit whatever costume he's wearing at any given time.

With vaporware he's gotten on "Rock Star" plus the drama of how he's gained, Ty should do well as a role performer, even without his longed-for INXS band connection.

Now that Ty is history, the "Rock Star" competition was down to only five finalists last week: MIC, Jordis, Imelu, Marty and JL. Each one of them is a potential star who would do the INXS band proud, so it's any body's guess who will be standing proud and alone after the finale of the "final four" competition finally closes on Sept. 21.

HAPPY. Imelu, Mig and JD

Now will "new" MIC Ignua do in the remaining rounds of the competition? It appears like the INXS jurors like him—not just for his talent, but also for his looks and generous nature.

In terms of looks, some people see MIC as the "metrosexual" of Peter Evangelista. As for his inherent generosity, it was again proven when he delivered to finale, who like him, wanted desperately to sing the rock classic, "Bohemian Rhapsody."

MIC's kind gesture worked to his favor, because the song he did sing enabled him to hit some extended high notes that impressed the heck out of both jurors and members of the audience. With lanky and plucky looks like that in his favor, MIC could go the distance.

Last week, however, MIC initially ended up among the bottom three—that's how volatile the "Rock Star" competition has become.

Fluckily, however, votes coming in from Australia and Asia boosted his flagging fortunes, and MIC ended up as one of the week's top two contenders (along with Marty).

Despite that last-minute "save," MIC still still have to do his duration to remain in the competition. To boost his chances, he should take heed of an INXS juror's loaded statement: "From now on in this competition, it's all about which finalist we feel will suit our band best."

That's right, it's no longer about talent, since all of the remaining finalists are gifted performers. The focus from here on in is on stability—so MIC had better "INXS up" his act!

Last week, Jordis failed to fit into the band's concept of the new lead singer it's been looking for, so she had to leave the show. The remaining survivors: Imelu, Marty, JD and MIC. The plot thickens!

'Three of a kind'

COMEDIAN comedy star **Michael Ros** is ideally suited for the role of Dragon Lore in "Three of a Kind," directed by Jun Ilio. Lore is a very successful martial arts novelist who has a shameful secret: He's never learned Kung Fu! The comedy film will be screened on East Chinese Movies at 9 p.m. on Sept. 17.

Feedback

FROM Barbara B. Quiros of Alabang, Muntinlupa City, "First off, I am no prude. I say, live and let live. But, whatever got into the heads of the 4th GEN bosses that they had to put up a bratty, lucky and senseless show like 'Pinoy Big Brother'?

"The supposedly innovative show is not even entertaining. I can't stand a minute of it. And the network doesn't have the license to exploit its exhibitionistic talents. A more appropriate title for the program would be 'Pinoy Big Brother, don't you think?'

The CompanY . . .

From page A1 >

break into the international scene. He also dreams of having our own musical show on TV, something like 'Rent, Rent Whatever,' Ryan Cayabyab's one musical idol."

With the impending departures of Ibrahim and Andri, the gang is training a new member.

"He's Joy Marquez," Andri shares. "He sets with the Q&A Band and 'Noisy Neighbors.' Kanto a jingle, he has sang it in the 1990s."

What piece of advice would Andri impart to young performers, including Jay?

"It was a top drawer for us for the ups (Hiding Secrets)," Andri says. "If you want to last long in the business, you have to sing your own songs, original Filipino Music. And hold on to your dream. Persevere."

Speaking of which, their 20th anniversary concert was almost canceled because their original producer "disappeared" at the last minute.

"It would've been so easy to feel crushed and disheartened," Mop says. "But the show is pushing through because our real friends and our families have rallied behind us. We are financing the show ourselves."

Now, that's The CompanY spirit.

SPORTS

E-mail sr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

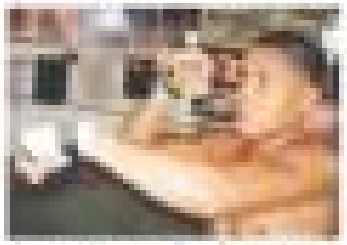
Editor Teddyboy B. Pimentel

Rematch still on

Pacquiao-Morales a done deal, says Top Rank

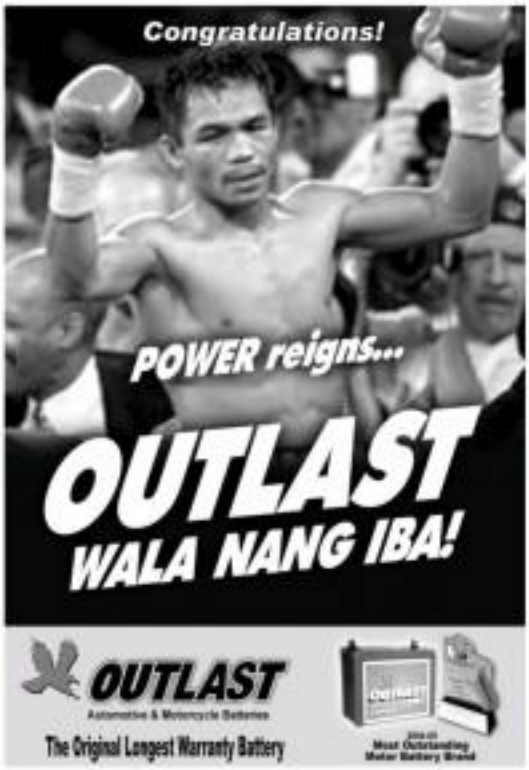
MANNY PACQUIAO SKILLfully kept his end of the bargain, but Erik Morales proved an abject failure.

Bare Eye: A 3-1-6 masterpiece A26



CENTRO

Pacquiao-Morales rematch still on, says Arum



While Pacquiao was no doubt the toast of the town, Hi-American Brian Viloria and Boholano Rey "Bonta Bonta" Bautista scored equally explosive wins that triggered instant media fascination among Filipinos in Los Angeles.

Viloria, known as "Hawaiian Punch," captured the World Boxing Council light flyweight crown with a stunning first-round knockout of Mexican title-holder Eric Ortiz.

Bautista set the tone for the night, destroying challenger Gerardo "Gerry" Morales in the third round of their 8-rounder.

The 24-year-old Bautista, now 17-0, with 13 KOs, exchanged punches with the stocky Manilla native in the first three but backed away with a big right in the beginning of the third round.

President Macapagal-Arroyo congratulated Pacquiao, Viloria and Bautista on TV, calling the three "role models of the youth."

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza also issued a congratulatory statement, saying the victory of Pacquiao, an adopted son of Manila, is "good for all of us. This also serves as a signal to each of us to unite and work together."

Viloria, the 34-year-old native of Waipahu, Hawaii, whose parents hail from Sarrat, ilocos Norte, Manila town in Ilocos Sur, went up the ring with the Philippine flag proudly displayed by his father Jim, and a miniature Philippine flag embossed on his trunks.

"I saw an opening in the fight 22 seconds. His corner expert is only by three-round knockout in a world championship," Viloria said.

In an interview with Filipinos, Morales was asked why he prefers to fight Pacquiao than Bautista. Morales said: "Pacquiao says he wants to take my head off. I don't see if he can do it."

Bautista is reportedly eyeing to fly back to the Philippines to attend to an ailing relative, fight news added.

After his win, Bautista said Rahseen now wants to be considered one of the big names in the 130-lb category along with the likes of Pacquiao, Morales, and Mexico's Antonio Barrera. He is set to meet only Big Bank source plan his future.

Promoter Bob Arum said "Top Rank plans to put Viloria against the winner of Juan Manuel Marquez vs. Pacquiao, Viloria's next fight will be a rematch or against WBO champ Ivan Calderon.

Salvo L. Jaguimbag Contributor

PAIN!!! Pacquiao (left) stands over Hector Velazquez after dropping him in the sixth.

Cheers, a 3-1-6 Philippine masterpiece in US

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

* * *

So when was the last time something this grand and glorious ever happened for the country in international boxing?

There should've been dancing in the streets like when Eleanor the Dictator was knocked out of Malacañang.

You can bet all three minutes would not be honed in Mandaluyong by the current Chief Executive who, although lavish self-feeling triumphant, continues to spend off knockout attempts by the opposition and various sectors of the frustrated society.

Something indeed went script-perfect for the country with that 3-1-6 knockout masterpiece.

It was just too bad that the Pinoy that came on the anniversary of the 9-11 Holocaust.

It was just too bad that the celebrated Erik Morales had to put up a tentative, lethargic round to get his re-debut in a bout that had size been set up as a prelude to a rematch with Pacquiao.

Pacquiao, who trained a shot at immortality last March when he lost a bloody thrilling bout to Morales, was all smiles as Zahir Raheem continued to score big in the closing rounds.

Either Morales did not train sufficiently or he was not too convenient fighting at 135 lb.

Of course, the Morales defeat should not fully dampen the fun Philippine celebration.

Pacquiao fans could indeed blame Morales for spoiling a script that was originally written for a blockbuster rematch between the two top warriors in Las Vegas next January.

And for them rewrite that old script.

With Pacquiao back in the mainstream, the next thing that could truly send Pinoys dancing in the streets is a revenge win over the Mexican ring icon.

Meanwhile, there shares for the Philippines. Ready, 3-1-6?

Raheem spoils the parade

LOS ANGELES—THE REMATCH BETWEEN Erik Morales and Manny Pacquiao was supposed to be a rematch, but someone forgot to tell that to former OD Olympian Zahir Raheem.

In shocking ruin on Saturday at Staples Center arena, Pacquiao pounded for 36 minutes, who many considered the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world, suffered a shock defeat to Raheem.

Raheem consistently beat fellow lightweight Morales on the punch for the biggest win of his career, a marquee match-up hunting unanimous decision.

A 1996 Olympian, Raheem (27-1) had fought in relative obscurity before dismissing Morales.

Judge Judy Lederman scored the fight 116-110, James Jen-Ho Sun 118-108 and Raul Caiz scored it 115-113, despite Raheem outlanding Morales, 161-85, in unofficial punch statistics.

From the opening bell, Raheem was quicker and unnerved with authority. He repeatedly was quicker to the punch than Morales, who was fighting at 135 lb for the first time.

The only thing slowing Raheem was a wet canvas, which he slipped on repeatedly throughout the middle of the contest. Raheem was even heard asking referee Jon Hudo to wipe up the spot.

In the end, it wasn't enough to save Morales (46-3), from his first loss to someone other than Hilario Antonio Herrera.

AFP

ERIK Morales (right) exchanges punches with Zahir Raheem in the fourth round.

Eagles conquer Tams, gain tie with Warriors

FIRST EXTENDED'S Marlou Aquilina loses possession in the face of the double-teaming defense by Arsenio's Macky Escalona (partly hidden) and Majestic Meneleo (right).

By Jasmine W. Payo

REGAINING HIS COMPETITIVE EDGE, LA Tenorio showed too much class yesterday as he powered the Ateneo Eagles past the league-leading Far Eastern U Tamaraws, 69-66, in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

"LA willed us to victory," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "He outplayed everyone."

Tenorio, who averaged just 6.5 points in the last two games, drilled in 23 markers, including a key triple and a scorching shot down the stretch.

The Eagles, who linked the Tamaraws' bid for a first Finals berth in four years, bagged a six-tie record with the UE Warriors at 10-5.

FEU took just its second loss and still took the top spot (11-2).

The fourth-running La Salle Archers are still in contention for the remaining semifinal berth after a 100-73 rout of the Adamson Falcons.

"The boys turned their frustration in this game," said coach Franz Pumaren, who was visibly unhappy with the UAAP board's decision to nullify the declared 86-82 overtime win over UE.

The board had ordered a replay of the UE-La Salle game Sunday 6 p.m. at the big house.

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Alabang pulls off Battle of Courts South leg sweep

ALABANG Country Club completed last year's unfinished job when it scored a five-match sweep of the South leg eliminations yesterday in the Battle of the Courts Basketball Inter-Club Badminton Cup Year 2 at the Alabang Racquet Club courts.

The ruined pair of Jr Madrid and Theo Cordero and the mixed tandem of Jesse Bronzal and Vidar Olsen stood up for the host of veterans Mell Reed and Juliet Avendia in the ladies doubles to score a 2-1 win for Alabang against Muntinlupa Badminton Center in the finals.

Alabang earlier beat Ipsasi in the quarterfinals and South Strand in the semifinals of the event co-sponsored by Mizuno, Smart Simply Amazing and Isuzu Badminton.

Despite the loss, Muntinlupa secured the other berth allotted for the South leg for the grand finals of the country's biggest club championship also supported by Citibank Dockers, Unilever and Cebu Pacific as the official carrier.

Alabang, captained by Red Hutchins, actually placed second to David Badminton Club last year after its players, held back by prior commitments, defaulted in the finals.

The other opponents are Philippine Health Insular & Pioneer Sys. Users, Vice Ritanni Weiss, Powersoft and Wilson as the official absolute ranks. Media partners are Solar Sports, Wave 98.1 and Isuzu 88.3.

Wenda Thayer and Joy Mercado rallied from a huge 6-15 deficit in the deciding third set to lift Watch-playmate Alabang Racquet Club to a quarterfinal duel and forged a 15-and-four clash with Ateneo.

Ateneo earned leap 54 breaks in their own quarterfinal match.

The Ateneo-Muntinlupa semis tilt was delayed for more than an hour due to a protest filed by ateneo as the eligibility of Glenn Garcia. Organizers allowed Garcia to replace Rolly Mazon in the Muntinlupa lineup a week after the deadline of submission of entries but passed.

Trudy Villaflor, head of the technical committee, said they allowed the switch only after Muntinlupa informed them that Mazon's name also appeared in another team's lineup.

When play resumed, Thayer and Ogie Bangcaffon bounced back from an opening set lose to beat Mr. Invitation and Patty Villaflor of Ateneo in the mixed doubles.

Peña expects RP resurgence in AF3

BEFORE the 2005 Asian Formula Three series ends in November, a Filipino driver will finally emerge triumphant.

The bold prediction was made by Dodo Welta, the 19-year-old driver, who is at the forefront of the Philippine charge in the elite racing series together with the 17-year-old Pyoncelly.

"A Filipino will win before this series ends," said Peña, who finished third in the seventh and eighth rounds of the series last month in the Sentul International Circuit in Bogor, Indonesia.

Peña, driving for Team Dandelion Mitsuoki Team Asia, is currently locked in a tie for fifth and sixth positions with Ito with 41 points, a point shy of Chris Lim's Petronas Syntium.

Ito, the lead driver of Epenbuoh Asia, had twice been in positions to end the Philippines' drought in the motor-loving arena but was foiled each time—in Zhuhai, China, last June and in Sentul last month.

The Filipino youngster, who will turn 18 next month, had the lead and was en route to victory when he figured in an accident with series leader Ayumdu Mikuin of Pantene Racing, 14 eventually finished fourth. Seven pole positions in the seventh round in Sentul saw a rainy clutch moment behind and eventually settled for fourth place.

He landed back to salvage runner-up honors in the eighth leg marred by disqualifications. Ito, driving strongly behind Mikuin, Peña himself had the chance to win in the eighth leg when he was left holding the pole position after the disqualification of O'Hara and other foreign drivers due to rules infraction.

SPORTSWATCH

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Grand Slam trophy

Agassi forges title showdown vs Federer

NEW YORK—CHEERING AGELAND CRAZE erupted on stage. Andre Agassi embraced bodies, younger brother Bobby Gregory in the crowd at the US Open and became the oldest Grand Slam finalist in 11 years on Saturday.

Agassi delivered no exclamation point to his 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 triumph with a 120-mph (193-kph) ace, his 17th of the match, on his first serve, shook hands with Gregory, then dropped to gravity as a child on the court to blow kisses and bow to 23,582 fans in packed Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"Oh, how do you find words for what this means? This has been some of the greatest memories I've ever had on the court," Agassi said. "I'll love these memories the rest of my life. Being in the finals at 35 just means you're going to have to put up with me a bit longer."

Later, someone asked if the ideal scenario would be for Roger Federer and Lleyton Hewitt to slug it out for the semifinals before the Australian was eliminated.

"Yeah, and what he really hit me on the way out of the stadium," Agassi said, drawing laughter.

Sorry, Andre. Federer won, and he feels fine.

"I expect a tough match," Federer said of tonight's championship match. "He always makes the opponent run. I'm ready to run, defend myself, and play aggressive when I have the chance."

Agassi, the owner of 131 Open titles in 1994 and '99, nearly will be the underdog against defending champion and top seed Federer, a 6-3, 7-6 (11), 4-6, 6-3 victor in three home against 2001 champ Lleyton Hewitt.

Federer overcame five set points in the second set and rewarded the discomfiture Hewitt in the tiebreak. The Australian, who fell to Federer for the ninth straight time, had the small consolation of winning a set against him after losing 17 in a row. AP

ters rips ce, wins m at last

looked over to them, I wanted to hug them," Clijsters said. "I decided to run up there. I didn't know where I was going or what I was doing. Luckily, I made it back safe."

It was the second straight challenging Petrova has taken in a Grand Slam final...but was Venus Hewitt's hardcourt record only 61 minutes to wedge but, 6-1, 6-1, at the French Open, prompting a marked Petrova upside gain to the best of her home country.

She stretched this final a few minutes longer...but she needed a bathroom break after the first set to do it.

"Before this match, I felt really good," said Clijsters, a two-time Grand Slam winner who has reinvented her career at 20. "I was ready for it. I was looking forward to it. I wanted it. But today was definitely not my day."

It was the 13th straight year the championship was won by straight sets, and was the most lopsided final since Martina Hingis beat Venus Williams, 6-0, 6-4, in 1997.

The victory splits the Grand Slam titles between Belgians and the Williams family. Justine Henin-Hardenne won the French, Serena Williams took the Australian Open and Venus Williams won the Wimbledon championship. AP

Americans tie Solheim Cup

Eagles . . .

Front page A27

SPORTS

Naga tapped to host Nat'l Intercollegiate caging

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL FEDERATION Inc. (PBF) has tapped Naga City to host one of its grassroots project, the intercollegiate men's and women's basketball tournaments.

This was announced by PBF senior vice president Noy Arejo during the last day of the Red Basketball League referees' training and accreditation seminar here. Arejo added it will the first time that the women's division will be inserted in the annual meet.

"The PCC has already given us orders to launch the tournament para kahit hindi pa kami nare-recognize ng world caging body our players are still learning," Arejo said.

All members of the basketball associations found of governors unanimously chose Naga City as the tournament site in February with 10 teams from 10 regions expected to participate.

ILOILO MILO RACE

Last year's runners-up steal show

ERIC Pantoja (second from right) and Marigene Campos (second from left) raise their respective trophies after riding the men's and women's 21.8 races of the 29th National MILO Marathon in Iloilo City.

ILOILO CITY—Last year's runners-up Eric Pantoja and Marigene Campos dethroned the reigning champions and claimed their first regional titles in the Iloilo City leg of the 29th National Milo Marathon final round tap at the Freedom Grandstand here.

Pantoja sealed the three-year reign of Edwin Lobaton in the men's 21.8 race while Campos, a perennial SE winner in this annual foot race, made sure fellow Negrense Apolito wouldn't pull off a repeat in the distaff side.

Pantoja, 1, 22-year-old casual employee at the Municipality City Hall in Negros Occidental, clocked one hour, 10 minutes and 30 seconds. The Antonyan Lobaton finished way behind in second with a time of 1:12:44. Anthony Ildefonso wound up third in 1:15:27.

Pantoja and Lobaton took turns pacing the race for the first 13 kilometers before the former pulled away for good.

Pantoja pocketed P130,000 for topping the half-marathon held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, Manila, Milo, Cebu Pacific, Smart Bd, Department of Tourism, Iloilo Mobile Prospect and Commercial.

"Lamog na kasi ang aspeto ko kaya nagkaganito ang pan ko. 2 pat bilanes because I had an old pair of shoes on," said Lobaton, who won P5,000.

Meanwhile, Campos was virtually unchallenged in the race. She finished the 21.8 distance in 1:38:20.

Governor Arlo Trillo took turn-up honors in 1:40:47, more than six minutes ahead of third placer Apolito (1:46:52).

Trailing the bewitching third grading star after 2 locked practice (excuse I expect to graduate) this summer," said Apolito, a commerce student at West Negros College.

The top three finishers in the 21K race qualified for the 42K National Finals slated for Ayala Mall in Metro Manila.

Iloilo Councilor Jose Espinosa III fired the starting gun, sending off 6,000 runners including Rep. Raul Gonzalez Jr. and Philippine Basketball Association super Ronald Tolentino, who both joined the 5K race.

Former SBA Marathon champion Epimeto Ilog (1979) and Barangka Drive-Valenzuela (1997) were also present as the race proceeding.

The first three finishers in the men's 5K fun run were Rogelio Pitoy (16:12), Jefferson Dano (16:41) and Robin Tumalapit (16:55). The top three in the women's race—Jhanny Jane Delfin, Marites Miranda and Jennifer Ebara—all came from the Manila Bay-based Smith Bits almost simultaneously in 19:25.

The winners in the Iloilo 5K run were Jun Montalbo and Jeanette Alon (5:47-age group) and Hyson Salleza and Elizabeth Dalusa (19:12).

Spring-Laguna five draws first blood

BAGUIO CITY—Spring Cooking Oil-backed Laguna held off the Baguio Green, 83-79, Saturday at the start of the best-of-three first-round playoff series in the 2005 Reunion-MBC national basketball championship at the UB gym here.

Veteran shooter Rodel Atillan's double-double performance and Mon Ian Salud's brilliant playmaking created the Cooking Oil Masters of MBC president Dieudonné "Tito" Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro to victory.

Muller, who finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds, Salvio Gondalo (6 points), Mar Reyes and Val Dumagat joined hands to overmaster the Lions' 44-37 lead at the start.

One of the Cooper Chiefs gets in Cagayan de Oro, the home of former Misamis Oriental Gov. Antonio Calingin squandered a 24-point lead but smashed in the stretch to nip Bacolod-Southeast Centro, 104-102.

The Stars improved to 3-7 in the tournament.

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Supreme sacrifice

CLEAN LIVING

Manuelo R. Ilogo

I COULD be wrong but a win-win solution to the conflict between the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Basketball Association of the Philippines is unlikely at this point. The final line patient we're in unable for starting camps of POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and BAP chief Joey Lina to save the situation.

But for the sake of the country and the PE game south, I am appealing to the BAP officials in particular to make the supreme sacrifice by accepting the fact that it was not Cojuangco but an overwhelming majority of 33 members of the POC general assembly, the supreme authority in Philippine sports, that created them.

Because the BAP is no longer recognized by the POC, Fiba, in accordance with its own regulations, should soon remove the BAP from its list of affiliated members and replace it with the newly formed Philippine Basketball Federation, which is now the national federation recognized by the POC. Simple as that.

There are rules in sports that must be followed to ensure fairness and sportsmanship. Respect for decisions of officials duly authorized to execute these rules is one of all these rules. Otherwise, there will be anarchy.

In expelling the BAP and replacing it with the PBF, the POC was simply exercising its authority and mandate to recognize only one NSA (national sport association) in basketball, in time for the 15th Olympic Games next year. The BOC (National Olympic Committee) shall not recognize more than one national federation/association for each sports governed by each IF (International Federation).

After it had neglected its duty to promote and develop basketball in recent years, thus creating a vacuum for its expulsion, the BAP should not complain now the POC general assembly took the necessary.

* * *

FIGHTING IN BASKETBALL. There is too much politics in Philippine basketball. But there is not surprising because over there, politics are the bane of the dark and dubble open.

In the Star World Basketball Championship held in 1950 in Buenos Aires, opponents of the Perón regime who had caught asylum in Uruguay used commercial radio stations in Montevideo to attack the Argentinian supreme leader. In retaliation, the Perón government refused to grant entry visas to Uruguayan newsmen and radio commentators. Uruguay with a population of only 2 million was then a big

Playing before a highly partisan crowd, Argentina won the NBC, beating the United States. The victory touched off a rightwing celebration comparable in the country's history to Lakers reaction to the World Cup of football.

Then in the third world championship held in Chile in 1959, the two Chinas later emerged. The People's Republic of China won a member of this since 1956 but withdrew its membership protest when Taiwan was recognized in 1953 as the Basketball Association of the Republic of China. The Soviet Union supported mainland China and forfeited its game against Taiwan, even though the Russians were on their way to winning the championship. Bulgaria also refused to play Taiwan, prompting organizers to bring down the Soviet Union and Bulgaria to the bottom of the standings. Brazil won the title.

Another political incident happened in Manila in 1962. The fourth world championship was supposed to have been held here, but the government under then President Diosdado Macapagal refused to grant visas to the players and official from Yugoslavia.

As a result, Fiba withdrew the championship from the Philippines, excluded the country from the next championship and imposed a fine of $2,000 on the Basketball Association of the Philippines then headed by Senator Rodolfo Ganzon and secretary general Domiciano "Chito" Cabeo.

Brazil won the championship when it refused to host the event in 1963. The Brazilians emerged champions that year.

A pattern has been set. In August in 1966 held in the postponement of the games the following year, but when it was held in May 1967, the temperature had come down to freezing point. The 1967 FIBC was played in an old cylinder-shaped building which was called the "Alphabet." The players were provided with electric heaters but table officials had to rely on damp and cold cement seats. A Hungarian table official shaded out wearing a light coat and shirt, came in sweaters the next day and finished the tournament in heavy overcoat, while shaking a bottle of rum with other officials. The Soviet Union won the title.

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BUSINESS

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PC BUYER'S GUIDE
The No.1 Computer Magazine in the Philippines

Consumers turning pessimistic

BSP survey cites rising prices, insufficient incomes

By Dinelle L. Lucas

LOCAL CONSUMERS WILL LIKELY BUY LESS goods for the rest of the year—including this coming holiday season—as their confidence in the economy continues to weaken, a central bank survey showed.

Despite this, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in remarks the consumer outlook was expected to improve substantially in 2006. "But it will remain in the last two quarters of the year," he said in a briefing last Friday.

According to the BSP survey, the decline in consumer expectations was due primarily to the unfavorable perception on the country's economic conditions. Respondents were also more cautious about their families' financial situation.

According to a central bank statement, respondents cited the high prices of food, utilities, oil and transportation as their top concerns.

They also cited insufficient income and rising household expenditures as reasons for their declining expectations.

The central bank survey respondents were especially pessimistic about the present quarter with a higher average diffusion index of -54.1 percent from the -47.9 percent in the previous quarter.

"The third quarter 2005 diffusion index is the lowest since the consumer expectations survey was started in the third quarter of 2004," Tetangco said in a separate statement.

Two out of three components indices of the average diffusion index, namely family financial situation and economic condition of the country declined, while family income improved slightly.

Consumer outlook for the last quarter of the year was also down at -37 percent from the -34 percent in the previous survey, further eroding the government's

(TURN TO A1)

FEELING THE PINCH

Businesses in the grip of crisis

(First of a series)

By Abigail L. Kis
and Richard W. Dumlao

SPECIAL REPORT

BEFORE THE "HELLO GARCI" TAPES ENDED headlines and sent the peso, the public transport sector and ordinary Filipinos learn how to adapt to the prices corresponding to rapid soaring level, fighting a losing battle against an all-consuming enemy.

For several months now, motorists have been complaining about soaring fuel prices. The public transport sector is almost up in arms over increasing prices, with commuting all prices making ends meet during emergency.

People are tightening their belts even more than usual as gasoline, diesel and cooking gas prices rise.

While they are seen to have been economic than the news present, local businesses are feeling the pinch of the oil price crisis as well.

Maybe even more so — they are now trying to cope with rising cost while keeping small, save prices down.

Oil companies themselves, such as shipping and air line, are the hardest hit by the ongoing oil price crisis. While fuel accounting for almost half of their operating expenses while their prices are regulated by the government, the recent fuel price spikes have brought soaring fuel prices to their businesses.

(TURN TO A11)

WHAT'S INSIDE

Cocktales: Galoongweb throw a party /B1

No Free Lunch: Where are the jobs! /B2

Twin shocks expected to trigger rise in key rates

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

1 = ₱

As of 5 p.m. (Sept. 11, 2005)

1 = ₱

As of 5 p.m. (Sept. 11, 2005)

GOLD

(as quoted Monday, Sept. 12, 2005)

STOCK MARKET

Uneventful trading seen

AND THIS MONDAY'S TRADING SET IS expected as investors remain cautious in the absence of fresh cues on the latest political issues from the government, analysts said.

The stock market plunged 2.01 percent last September 5 after President Arroyo's step down from office due to alleged election rigging and profiting from illegal gambling.

This was despite the fact that the Supreme Court junking of an impeachment complaint against Mrs. Arroyo.

Investors are now doubtful over whether the government can fulfill its promises to ease out its yawning budget deficit and sustain economic growth.

"Another takeover bidding process could be announced this week, and other local managers see enough fiscal measures are in place that could help soften the impact of higher crude prices," said Grace Cardenas.

(TURN TO B1)

IBM LTO Generation 3:
Great just got greater!

IBM

IBM, the inventor of tape technology 50 years ago, has done it again. Redefining its No.1 revenue ranking in worldwide tape sales for 2004*, IBM is again first off the blocks in making the latest Gen 3 Ultrium LTO tape drives commercially available in the Philippines today.

With the new generation of tape drives, you can now backup almost one terabyte (800GB) compressed) of your valuable data on a single cartridge at a blistering speed of up to 80MB/s. Together with IBM's Tivoli Storage Manager software, what would usually take several hours of backup is now reduced to just minutes.

*Source: IDC Worldwide Quarterly Disk Storage Systems Tracker, January 2005

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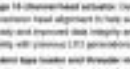

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Where are the jobs?

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

THE CURRENT MEDIUM-TERM PHILIPPINE Development Plan (MTPDP) for 2004-2010 targets the creation of 1 to 1.2 million new jobs this year, and bring the unemployment rate down to 11.9 percent. The medium-term goal is to bring unemployment rate down to 8.9 percent in 2010, by creating 9.7 to 11.5 million jobs in the next six years.

Most of the new jobs targeted this year are envisaged to come from the services sector (345,888,711,000), followed by agriculture (269,888,011,000) and industry (174,888,232,000).

Are we meeting these targets so far?

Elusive jobs

Not quite, I'm afraid. Latest available data (based on the April 2005 labor and employment survey) show that the economy had generated a total of only 666,000 new jobs since the past 12 months. At this rate we are, by spring, job creation will only be slightly better than half of the target set for this year. On a sectoral breakdown, the picture looks even worse. Not only did agriculture not create enough jobs, it actually lost 121,000 jobs in the past 12 months (relative to the 1,221,000 new jobs), but still fell well short of the minimum target of 174,888. Services, the mainstay of the economy, created 699,000 new jobs, well within the targeted range.

In contrast, 1.5 million new jobs had been generated in the 12 months ending April 2004. In other words, job creation this past year has slowed down to just over half of the pace registered in the year before. Of this figure, services had contributed 865,000 and industry 270,000, while agriculture had lost 43,000 jobs.

With about a million new workers entering the labor force every year, the above numbers mean that jobs are still unable to catch up with the new jobseekers. Thus, in percentage terms, the unemployment rate soared last year. Last April, it was 12.9 percent, while last January posted 11.3 per cent.

Record underemployment

What I feared even more worrisome about the April labor and employment data is **was the steep rise in underemployment** rate, now at 20.1 percent. We define an underemployed person as someone who had a job, but had acquired in the survey that he/she wanted to work more, regardless of whether he/she is already working full-time (40 hours a week) or not. In other words, we are underemployed if your present job is not enough to meet your (and your family's) needs.

I have not seen this number touch this level either in the past 10 years. Underemployment rate had tended to hover around the 14-15 percent range so far. Look as I can remember, **for the data now show that more than one** out of every four Filipino workers does not have an adequate job. Both's planning and policy director Dennis Arroyo attributes it to higher inflation, with rapidly rising prices seriously curbing the purchasing power of workers' earners' incomes. He cites suspicion that many of the new jobs being generated have been in the informal sector, including the underground economy, where jobs are of lower quality and less stable. Indicative of this is the decline in percentage of wage and salary workers and an increase in the percentage of unpaid family workers and self-employed.

Jobless profile

Where are the unemployed? Of the 4.8 million jobless workers in April, more than a million were in Metro Manila, 694,000 were in the Calabarzon region, and 627,000 were in Central Luzon. These three regions accounted for almost half of all the jobless workers in the country.

Who are the unemployed? About half of the unemployed are young people between the ages of 15 to 24. More than three-fourths (76 percent) of the jobless are 24 years old and younger. One might say that Filipinos are starting off early in poverty.

Of the jobless, close to one-fifth (18.3 percent) are college graduates and a little over a fifth (21 percent) have taken college units without completing. High school graduates make up 28.4 percent of the unemployed, while those with high school units account for 14.4 percent. Elementary graduates account for only 9.9 percent of the jobless, while 7 percent have not finished elementary schooling. With these statistics, one wonders what for it's worth going to college, or even finishing high school at all. Perhaps all those school dropouts are acting rationally after all.

Structural difference

Why is it that there are less than one million unemployed Thais, but close to 5 million jobless Filipinos for more than 2.9

News: Gokongweis throw a party

THE GOKONGWEIS THINK IT AS A badge of honor, rather than an insult, when people talk about the family being "tsismosa."

Last Friday, the Gokongweis did a mind-stimulating thing: threw a mini-party for thousands of employees and business partners to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the family's Robinsons Retail Group.

Held at the country's biggest hardware of the country's newest, five-year-hotel, Crowne Plaza (also Gokongweis-owned), the SRO party was the group's very first anniversary bash since 1986, when their aspiring supermarket in Greenhills was still a department store in a three-like building in Ermita.

Contrary to some impression, the department store was not a copycat of a similar chain in Singapore and Thailand; rather, the dimple had been inspired by the second son of Mr. John, whose late mother was a big fan of the fictional self-sufficient adventurer Robinson Crusoe, and Mr. John's eldest daughter, Robina.

The Ermita store has since blossomed to seven retail formats (including Mini-Stop, Handyman and Toptoys) and 246 stores. (Its second biggest retail group in the country after the SM Group.

An indication of the Robinsons' reach and depth is that even the president of Mitsubishi Japan, Hiroshi Hiki-o, and Victor Fung, chair of the Hong Kong-based trading empire Li & Fung Group, flew in for the occasion.

Unfortunately for stock market investors, the Robinsons Retail Group is not part of the publicly listed JG Summit, and hence would not take part in its employee growth.

And here's a tip: John Hecht, which is folded within JG Summit, saw its Manila Cebu market share rise to 37 percent (from 10 percent) after building a brand-new Airbus 320 to ply the route beginning June.

Similarly, the airline's market share in the busy Manila-Davao route jumped to almost 30 percent from 19.5 percent after another new A320 was also added.

On the Universal Robina front, the Gokongweis' grunt tea drink, C2, has been flying off the supermarket shelves since its recent introduction (but even Cojuangco heir Lance Gokongwei—finishing the infamous Filipino "exalt" mentality—has been pleading with the press not to use the word to describe it).

Foreign funds fuel protesters

THESE patriotic stay cops on the streets, but their pockets are quietly stuffed by foreign funds.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition, continued on A2

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Victor C. Aguirre

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Stock market corners bulk of 'hot' money inflow

By Dazle L. Lacia

THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET attracted the bulk of volatile "hot" money coming in to the country during the last eight months of the year, belying accusation the impact of President Macapagal-Arroyo's political crisis on the peso.

In a statement released on Friday, Singko Somroyan Pilipinas Investor Aranzado Tolongco Jr. said Philippine Stock Exchange-listed issues were the main beneficiaries of portfolio funds during the period, accounting for 67.3 percent of total inflows.

This marked a shift from the distribution of portfolio investments in the past years when hot money went mainly to fixed-income instruments.

Tolongco said government securities, primarily Treasury bonds, consisted only 31.5 percent of foreign fund inflows, while proceeds from stock placements accounted for the 1.6-percent balance.

In the week ending Sept. 2, BSP data showed that a total of $2.057 billion in portfolio funds were retained in the local financial markets, on the back of $4.416 billion in inflows and $2.420 billion in conversations.

The net inflow during this period was more than 34 times the amount reported during the same period last year, which was $130.1 million.

"The Supreme Court ruling on the legality of the value-added tax law, the 4.6-percent gross domestic product growth rate during the second quarter, and the issuance of a downgrade in the inflation rate in August helped boost investors' confidence," Tolongco said in his statement.

He added that the interest of foreign investors in Philippine issues has been increased by the "generally positive" first-semester corporate profit results and "sound economic fundamentals," even as oil-price hikes loom threatening and the political crisis has yet to be fully resolved.

The BSP expects foreign fund managers to continue pouring in investments in the fourth quarter, possibly chilling to fixed-income investments or interest rates rise to keep pace with US Fed rate hikes.

The central bank's data on portfolio investments were culled from the weekly reports of the country's five largest custodian banks—Citibank N.A., Standard Chartered Bank, HSBC, Deutsche Bank, and ING Bank—which account for an estimated 90 percent of all client-base foreign funds traffic in the country.

Marking shift in portfolio investments distribution

All GP Sept. 2, $2.057 billion in portfolio funds were retained in the local financial markets.

Is our presidential system outmoded?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honorio C. General

JOSE E ARLINA SAYS: "PEOPLE THERE ARE many factors behind our continuing poverty and underdevelopment compared to our more progressive neighbors in Asia, a basic problem is our outmoded, over-centralized and stifling presidential system of government, said the dysfunctional political parties that it can produce."

Our political parties have not always been dysfunctional. Say when you will against our American colonizers, but from the start they sought not to shut out political minorities but have a strong political opposition. In the first election in 1907 to choose government and assembly members, two parties fought for dominance. The Nacionalista party vanished independence. The Federalista party remained unreformed. The Federalistas won 24 percent of the seats. The party ultimately failed many as it attributed lost popular support.

I don't deny the Sinquponian parliament where the opposition holds two-fourths seats. Or the Malaysian parliament where the dissent's presence is so jail for displeasing the prime minister. Or the Malaysian parliament where the winner in the last election has been under house arrest for the past 14 years.

Quezon built the Nacionalista party to become the dominant party. After World War II, the Nacionalistas was the only party. Manuel Roxas succeeded and got up the Nacionalista Liberal Wing, later simply Liberal. He beat Sergio Osmeña for president.

Our two party-system was maintained by means of a very simple device. Only the Nacionalistas and the Liberals were considered competitors in the counting and canvassing of votes. As a result, no one dared to run as an independent candidate. Leonido Taliado's Osmena party was clean-lived.

Then, the 1947 Constitution allowed individuals other than candidates of political parties to serve as members of boards of canvassers of votes. In a single election, 2000 individuals were appointed to serve the government to repudiate "corrupt" and "anti-people" foreign debts.

These foreign debts, who exist many years after your without fail, include Brand for the Philippines, Inc. (Brand) and the Philippine Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. Brand: Church of Canada, Christian Aid, Cordaid, Global Resurgimento, Broth, Oxfam Great Britain, Oxfam Hong Kong, Point Catholic Justice Fund, Trocaire, Protestant World Relief and Development Fund, Reformation, and 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 Belgian parishes group.

Aside from funding research and protest activism, the activist group on the side makes sure it has enough leftover money for a presidential fund and a multi-purpose fund, the first to finance expenditures per and audited and medical benefits, and the second, to provide a forced savings scheme for the EDC officers and employees, with EDC matching the said contributions.

And, according to EDC records, it even has money to finance personal computer loans for its officers and rank and files.

Based in UP Diliman, EDC reported that it had 23 employees in 1999, and has since established chapters in Cebu, Davao, General Santos, Iloilo, Tacloban, Olongapo and Zamboanga cities.

Heavy-go-round

• THE GRAPEVINE hotshot of agency MDG has lost its president, Sarah Bahnsen, as well as a number of key account executives.

• PSBC treasurer Jose Arnulfo Arlegui said he was still a junior officer when he left Urban Bank in 1988, and was therefore not part of the Friday dinner held by the defunct bank management committee to celebrate what could have been Urban Bank's 39th anniversary.

Also, ex-Urban Bank officers Mario Pacific, Al Hamed and Ricardo Diaz-Lucot were with Bank of Commerce, not with Export and Industry Bank, as reported Friday. All three have BSP units.

Another ex-Urban Banker, Phoebe Cubido, is also now with the Bank of Commerce as head of branch banking, with the rank of senior vice president.

• A FORMER Inter-A Exang partner assigned to the Philippines, Dale Strickland, has become a shuttle-blower, revealing the accounting gaps in a Makati commercial bank doing business in the country and, worse, even selling unwanted of corporate loans.

Heard through the grapevine

LANCE Gokongwei's wife, Joy, gave birth to a healthy baby boy last Tuesday, to the delight of Mr. John, who is now assured that his family line has a final potential male link.

The young Gokongwei, the first for Lance and his co-owner Sarah, and the second born to husband Jack" by Hon. John.

National debt seen going down to 50% of GDP

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE said the national government's debt would likely go down substantially to only 50% of the country's gross domestic product by 2010.

The projection was made following the Supreme Court's decision upholding the constitutionality of the Value Added Tax Reform Law and on the assumption that the law would be implemented soon.

As of end-2004, the national government's outstanding debt reached P3.421 trillion, or 69.4 percent of GDP.

The debt level marked rising dramatically in the late 1980s because of the government's revenue collection, which forced it to incur huge borrowings to finance requirements.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said that expected lifting of the VAT law suspension would help the government wipe out its budget deficit by 2008, or earlier than the targeted target of 2010.

He said that, with a zero deficit by 2008 and a budget surplus starting 2009, the government would be able to begin reducing its debt to only 50.3 percent of GDP by 2010.

The government's budget deficit in 2005 stood at P187 billion, or 3.5 percent of GDP.

Without the VAT law, the DOF estimated that the debt figure would decline at a much slower pace, only hitting 71.2 percent of GDP by 2010.

GDP is the total amount of goods and services produced domestically in a given period.

The VAT law will expand the coverage of the tax to include sellers producers and services, including electricity and oil, and will increase the VAT rate from 10 to 11 percent starting 2006.

The law will also increase corporate income tax rate from 32 to 35 percent.

Assuming the VAT law is implemented starting Oct. 1, the government could generate P9 billion in additional revenue this year and more than P60 billion yearly beginning 2006.

Naia-3 repair to cost ₱1B

By Clarissa S. Barros

THE MANILA INTERnational Airport Authority is allotting P1 billion of its retained earnings to complete unfinished civil works at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 in preparation for its opening, said MIAA general manager Alfonso Cusi.

He said the bulk of the required amount would be used to complete road construction works and installation of power and communication facilities. Portions of the structure, he added, would be earmarked for the payment of the contractor recently likely Takenaka Corp. of Japan, that would complete the remaining unfinished projects at the Naia-3.

The new terminal should have opened its doors four more years for December. The MIAA said delays in the charging of the contract with Takenaka had pushed back the Naia 3's timetable.

Takenaka had agreed in principle to complete the Naia 3 for P30 million plus a $3.66,000 premium for lawsuit. But the actual signing of the contract until he government had heed delayed several times.

The contractor will be required to extend the warranty ensure the structural integrity of the terminal. The government found several construction defects at the terminal.

The MIAA, which runs the Nais terminals, registered a net income of P473 million in the first seven months, up 24 percent from year-ago level and 58 percent more than its 2005 million target for the period.

Cusi said the airport's finances improved in view of increased passengers and flights. He said the government would like to open Nais 3 as soon as possible.

Lance Tawly Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp., and Hillhi Bgh's Manilla Hotel Corp. are eyeing to operate Naia 3, Bid Cusi said the government had to bid out the right to operate the new terminal.

The Air Safety Foundation Philippines said the new terminal was unlikely to open this year because of several unfinished components. The arrora road from Naia 3 to the two other Naia terminals, he as stance, has yet to be completed.

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First Gen considers IPO in 2005

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FIRST GENERATION Corp., the holding company of the Lopez group's power generation assets, is leaving an initial public offering this year to raise P11.2 billion if conditions accepted.

If it pushes through, First Gen will be only the third major company to conduct an IPO after water distributor Manila Water Co. and holding firm SM Investments Corp.

In a registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), First Gen said it would offer between 350.6 and 2249 million shares at P5.1 to P7.4 a share.

The total offer size has yet to be finalized. Of the number, around 70 to 80 percent will be sold to foreign investors, said industry sources familiar with the deal.

First Gen wants to to lure investors from Hong Kong, the United States and London to participate in its IPO.

First Gen has tapped UBS Investment Bank and CLSA Limited as international underwriters, while SEB Enskilda Capital Markets and SBC Capital Markets Inc. Corp. will handle the local arm.

In its disclosure, First Gen said it would use the proceeds to improve existing facilities, expand capacity, acquire power generation facilities or develop new projects.

The company has investments in four major operating power generation projects. The 1,000-megawatt Santa Rita plant in Batangas (60 percent), the 500-MW San Lorenzo plant also in Batangas (60 percent). The 225-MW Sibulan plant in Cebu (87.3 percent) and the 14-MW Agusan mini-hydroelectric plant (100 percent).

The bulk of the company's revenues in power generation comes from the Santa Rita plant, which generated P14.04 billion in revenues as of June this year, followed by its San Lorenzo plant at P7.1 billion.

Its three power plants—Sta.Rita, San Lorenzo and Sibulan—supply power to the Luzon Grid.

First Gen is 40.4 percent owned by First Philippine Holdings.

The Lopezes is distributed between Asian Infrastructure Development Company PC Power Corp. Ltd., a $400 million investment fund involved in Asian private infrastructure projects which holds 7.75 percent in First Gen, and Santrades, one of the largest trading conglomerates in Japan with 1.181 percent.

Sources said the IPO would give First Gen the financial muscle to bid for major power projects of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) after raising P5 billion from the issuance of fixed rate bonds.

Sources said First Gen was seriously looking at government power assets up for sale.

It earlier indicated interest in the 500-megawatt Sucat Genco II and Calaca power plants, but the bidding was cancelled.

PSALM had one the 600-Megawatt Calaca coal-fired plant in July.

But without a transition supply contract (TSC) to ensure a ready market for its electricity, the prospective bidders pulled out, forcing PSALM to cancel the bidding.

PSALM, the government agency tasked to undertake the sale of the country's debt power assets, is set to privatize seven more hydropower plants.

ANG TAN GOLF CLUB U SHARES, INC.
connie ang

Uneventful trading . . .

Turn to page B2

chief operating officer or online broker 2TradeAsia.com.

Alfred Op, head of research at CLSA Philippines, said the absence of fresh corporate news was keeping investors on the sidelines.

He added that investors even take cautious tone over the expected value-added tax law would be implemented after the Supreme Court upheld its constitutionality.

"There have been positive economic news but even the political scenarios and the debate in the economic reforms are overshadowing these. We think people are still fixated on how the [VAT] will be implemented is in currency," he said.

Cacdac also added that market participants would monitor the release of the implementing guidelines on the 'P8' case the Supreme Court lifts its temporary restraining order on the measure.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

$5B IN FIVE YEARS

PCCI boosts tourism

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry has wrapped up efforts to promote small and medium scale entrepreneurs in tourism and tourism related services under a program aimed at earning $5 billion in five years.

Sidney Pulcini, chair of the PCCI's tourism committee, said she was pushing for a two-pronged approach of "branding" provinces as tourist destinations and developing business opportunities.

The move is part of PCCI's "555" program, which entered its second year of implementation this month. Through the second business initiative held at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

The program also aims at within five years—attracting five million foreign tourists, five million jobs and $5 billion in economic to tourism.

Pulcini said branding starts with identifying the strength of provinces, such as historical or human-made treasures.

Also, under the "Summer" 3, concept, PCCIs pushing for to present trading based on common attributes that fall under the themes of heritage, pilgrimage, beach, festivals, culinary, and arts and crafts.

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BOI OKs perks for SME

THE BOARD OF INvestments has given tax perks to a multi-unit seafood flours business under its efforts to promote the country's marine products industry.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said all Filipino-Finn Bell and Heim Seafood Sphere Inc.'s P200.8-million fish processing plant would be located in General Santos City.

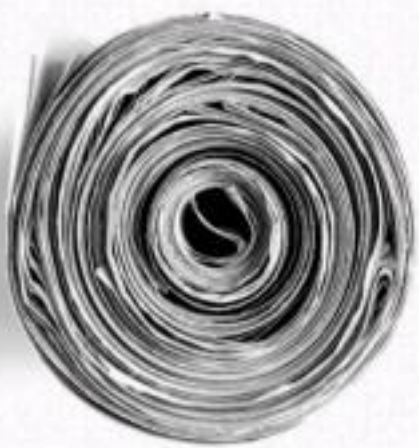
Bell and Boss would produce and export 2,250 metric tons of processed marine products a year, including tuna and mussel and fishing gear.

The frozen tuna would be processed into steak or loins, while the crushed meat would be exported frozen fresh, arranged and packaged in containers.

The company plans to ship out 80 percent of its products to various tuna-consuming markets such as the United States, Korea and Japan.

Bell and Boss has recently built a one-story cold storage facility in the area, which would hold up to 30,000 metric tons of processed fish and agricultural products.

About a third of this storage capacity would be allotted for its own processed marine and agricultural products in General Santos area, and in the surrounding localities. Ronnel W. Domingo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INQUIRER

San Miguel seen tapping foreign borrowings

To settle bridge loan, finance more acquisitions

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL CORP. IS PLANNING TO tap the foreign debt market to finance part of a $1.2 billion bridge loan and to fund its acquisition of businesses in Australia.

The planned foreign borrowing is on top of the $500 million worth of long-term peso loan already in the pipeline.

SMC had earlier tapped a consortium of nine banks to arrange the peso loan that would go to the refinancing of nearly half of the $1.3-billion bridge loan used in buying Australian dairy giant National Foods Ltd.

The balance of the bridge loan will be financed through foreign loans. SMC is also counting on these foreign loans to fund other acquisitions in Australia, including an additional stake in Australian juice brand Berri Ltd.

The banks that offered to arrange the 5-year $500-million peso loans to San Miguel were ABN Amro Holding NV, Barclays Plc, BNP Paribas SA, Calyon, Citigroup Inc., HSBC Holdings Plc, ING Groep NV, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. and Standard Chartered Plc.

Its purchase of National Foods is SMC's largest investment this year. It is hoped to cement its hold of the fast-growing Asia-Pacific food and beverage market.

In a bidding war launched late last year, SMC's A$1.9 billion offer (US$1.5 billion) toward that of close rival Bon Dealandi's Foster's Group Ltd.'s successful bid.

Aside from National Foods, SMC has also invested in juice maker Berri Ltd. and brewer J Boag in Australia.

SMC earlier confirmed reports that it was acquiring the remaining 49 percent stake in Berri, which will bring to 100 percent its control of the Australian firm.

SMC, which bought 51 percent of Berri earlier, has the option to purchase the remaining 49 percent stake in the firm in January 2006.

Business sources said the amount involved had yet to be negotiated and set.

The combined distribution channels of Berri and National Foods should provide synergy to the SMC, estimated at $30 million, Spencer White, Merrill Lynch Hong Kong strategist had said.

Both brands may also be introduced in the Japanese and other Asian countries.

SMC holds a dominant domestic market position in the beer, food liquor, and non-alcoholic beverage segments, which accounted for more than two-thirds of its operating profit in the past three years.

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Gov't extends ICTSI contract by 25 years

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY HAS approved the petition of International Container Terminal Services Inc. for a 25-year extension of its contract to operate within the Port of Manila.

PPA general manager Oscar Orbilla said the agency's board of directors recently approved the extension of ICTSI's contract and were endorsed to Malacañang for final approval.

A similar petition filed by Asian Terminals Inc. has yet to be taken up by the PPA board.

The 25-year contracts of ICTSI and ATI will expire on 2013. Both firms are engaged in handling of containers and bulk cargoes. They operate in the Port of Manila, the country's biggest port that handles about 80 percent of the domestic trade passing through the metropolis and 65 percent of the total Philippine trade.

Cargo handling involves stevedoring, which is cargo handling inside the vessel, and arrastre or cargo handling outside the dock, and off-dock work for shipping lines or container operators that use container yards far from the port.

Orbilla said the PPA might finally bid out the operations of North Harbor, which is also within the Port of Manila, by next year. The planned privatization of the government-run Port of North Harbor has been pending for several years now.

A consortium composed of ICTSI, AIC and the Integrated Shipowners Association had proposed to upgrade the major port during the time of President Estrada. Part of the group's proposal is to eventually give them the right to operate the port. This arrangement was opposed by the business community.

In re-awarding the contracts of ICTSI and ATI, the PPA chief said the petitions were justifiable.

"They need a long-term contract as they can continue investing," he said.

ATI has a pending $300-million investment program for the South Harbor.

ATI also operates piers one-to-five in the Manila port and was granted a temporary permit to run the said terminal pending the privatization of the port's operation next year.

ICTSI reported a net income of P486 million in the first half, up 69 percent from P288 million in the same period last year.

The Razon company operates 16 strategically located ports in major economic zones—the Manila International Container Terminal, the Subic Container Terminal Project, and Terminal Simões Sá in Brazil.

Questions . . .

From page B1

Our presidential house is exactly 100 years old. After our first elections in 1908, we elected our first president. None of the countries in the Third World and few even in the First have that long experience in democratic elections. We just cannot turn our backs to this valuable legacy.

Is our presidential system outmoded? Far from it. It is the parliamentary system that is getting outmoded. In order to avoid the chronic instability of a purely parliamentary system, parliaments around the world, notably France and Indonesia, are becoming more and more presidential in character.

Admittedly, our presidential house badly needs repairs. The roof leaks, the floor creaks, and the plumbing is clogged. But instead of bringing in the plumbers, carpenters and masons, Abono wants to call in the wrecking crew. He wants to raze the building down to the ground. And, even before the debris is cleared, he wants to erect an entirely new edifice costly enough to the Filipino people and designed by architects of dubious qualifications and intentions.

A house is never finished. Our presidential house, only 100 years old, is still work in progress. Let's patch it up and strengthen it. But, let no one say it is done.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

To my fellow civil servants:

Through all periods of political turmoil in our past, the public servant has always been the great stabilizer of the nation and keeper of the people's welfare. Through this latest episode of partisan conflict, I thank you once more for keeping governance on an even keel.

I seek an active partnership with you -- from our public school teachers, men and women in uniform, to our medical and social workers, field personnel, messengers and clerks -- those who wear the badge of public service with great pride and honor.

Help me be a good and just President. Let us offer our people a fresh start by giving them the best services possible -- marked by professionalism, courtesy, and integrity. Let our team spirit be enhanced by open dialogue, more opportunities for growth and knowledge, and a system of rewards and incentives to those who excel in the line of duty.

It is time for the Filipino civil servant to take center stage as we bridge the gap between government and the people, by being the best servant-leaders that we could become. I call on you to be by my side as we redouble our efforts to fight poverty, prevent corruption, and promote a system of laws, and not of men, for the greater good of the nation.

Let us have a fresh start based on mutual respect, commitment, unity and teamwork. Let us lead the nation and serve the people, and take them to the threshold of a brighter future.

Thank you and God bless the Philippines!

MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Republic of the Philippines

Distributed by NewspaperDirect

Twin shocks expected to trigger rise in key rates

By Daxim L. Lucas

TETANGCO

THE BANGKO SENtral ng Pilipinas is poised to raise its key interest rate as early as this week after it was hit by twin shocks of a higher-than-expected acceleration in local prices and surging liquidity in the financial system.

The government's benchmark Treasury bill and bond rates, as well as commercial lending rates, are expected to rise in reaction to the BSP move.

Sources revealed that the central bank may opt to tighten monetary policy a full week ahead of the policy-making Monetary Board's regular rate setting meeting, although it has yet to decide what form the tightening will take.

BSP can restrain inflation by imposing higher interest rates, raising banks' reserve requirements, or siphoning off cash from the financial system by selling government bonds.

"We will not rule out anything at this point because of the high liquidity growth," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said during a press briefing last Friday.

At present, BSP's key overnight rate—a gauge for bank lending rates—stands at 7 percent.

Tetangco pointed out that the amount of money circulating in the financial system rose to 13.6 percent in July—a situation that can fuel higher inflation—despite a preemptive 2-percentage point hike in banks' reserve requirement last summer.

The hike was meant to help cap consumer price increases.

The BSP chief indicated that the central bank is now ready to overlook the ill effects higher interest rates will have on local economic output which is struggling under the oil crisis.

"Price stability is the main mandate of the BSP," Tetangco said. "Everything is secondary to this."

The government last week said that the inflation rate rose by 7.2 percent in August, faster than the central bank's prediction of 6.6 to 7.1 percent.

This prompted Tetangco to issue an aggressive statement hinting at an imminent rate hike.

The central bank is also concerned that the US Federal Reserve's rate hikes since early this year have pushed investors into shifting their assets to US dollar-denominated securities, which now carry increasingly attractive yields versus peso-denominated investments.

"We need to look at the potential impact of narrowing interest rate differentials [on the inflation rate]," the central bank chief said.

Tetangco explained that capital flight could weaken the peso, which in turn, would push local prices even higher.

Tetangco said the Monetary board will watch relevant indicators closely to help it decide as to whether to raise interest rates at the next Monetary Board meeting on Thursday.

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Sony ups ante in high stakes TV trade

By Cherie C. Dumlao

SONY's next generation LCD unit under the Bravia line sits well in a comfortable setting.

In World Summit, RP to sound out gains on fiscal front

By Michelle V. Ramos

Only 1/5 of bad assets sold under SPV law

By Dazzle L. Lucas

Consumers turning . . .

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2005 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Bunal-Formoso
Subsection Editor Lira B. Zubiaga

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Ventura's body language

By Gina Dantioquia
Contributor

AFTER HIS TRIUMPH IN THE Second Antonio Art Awards, Ronald Ventura has mounted a show that confirms his winning was no fluke.

Though we have misgivings about giving artists in a yearly competitive context, Ventura is a deserving one as a result of his versatility, steady development and attuned to the demands of an ever-changing mural universe.

Here, in a show of recent works involving mixed-media techniques, the artist renders the media as the supreme fetish.

The University of Santo Tomas-trained artist has always struck us as a formula artist, the superintendence, particularly with the body as main vessel of his art, in both style and substance, are the products of a particular sensibility that is consistently unnerving and mind-numbing, where the signifier and the signified are literal, and visual puns take on their usual absurd meanings.

In the exhibit "Rituals," (West Gallery, 181 Hopmall, until Sept. 13), the seemingly disparate images are connected by the subsidiary device technique of allowing a character to take its own course.

In "Basic," for instance, the image of painted pants tipped sideways to reveal two pairs of legs in various states, for a double reason, a thoroughly engaging treatise on the Jungian duality of the body's erotic powers.

The same spin is used for a much smaller work (sold), a diptych of nuts skewering the love sides of the female torso.

Memory is another subject in which Ventura grows more engaging. In "Memory Loss," the male nude is positioned downward, its head replaced by an illuminating object held by the two arms of the figure. But one is so hooked by facial features unlike usual stylizations, Ventura defines the essential as never life to the eye.

The artist's savage-like rendering of man's anatomical parts has its apotheosis in "Hera, morphosis," executed in acrylic and charcoal on paper and canvas. Thighs and legs have been amalgamated in a more surreal mode, based on a monster Dali would have approved, accommodating the symmetry of the love sides of the body.

In a surprising departure from his obsession with the nude, Ventura shows a mastery also in "Eye Story" in cool combat theory, complete with a rifle aimed at the viewer. The artist simply may be testing his ability to clothe his figures as well as he undresses them, and what more felicitous way than to show the most heavily cloaked figure today as equally the servants of yet ago.

Training more melodrama in his musings, and proving his ambidexterity with materials and techniques as well, Ventura has a suite of sculptures which he simply calls iron totems. These include a horse with two heads, a dog mounting the mask of a creature, a work in bronze color and a prying instrument salvaged from industrial junk.

This is a show that issues and resolves. Ventura has boldly ventured into the aesthetic and the visceral. We come out pleased and provoked, disturbed and enlightened.

E-mail the author at gdantioquia@yahoo.com

"MEMORY Loss"

"BASIC"

Shell launches 2005 edition of art contest

PILIPINAS SHELL, ORGANIZER OF THE country's longest-running art competition, launched this year's contest by bringing abstractionist Nestor Nafuatan to Mindanao for a one-day lecture-workshop for visual arts students. The 2005 Shell Art Interaction Program was held at the Philippine Women's College (PWC) of Fine Arts and Culture in Matina, Davao.

Around 250 participants from various schools gathered at PWC for the event. Some Davaoeño art enthusiasts were also present.

The first half of the symposium was a CD presentation that featured an Shell's three decades as an artist. The young audience learned about the artist's "sources, influences, philosophy and techniques" to help them in their own personal development.

In the afternoon workshop, the students worked on their own art pieces. Shell-ists were around to observe and guide the participants, discussing technique in art-making like layering, thinner-to-thick paint composition and working with mixed media.

During his undergraduate years, Nafuatan entered the Shell On-the-Spot Painting Contest and won for two consecutive years. Now an established figure in Philippine art, he encouraged young Mindanao artists to join the Shell competition to be enjoyed by a wider art audience.

Last year, the three-term former dean of the University of the Philippines Diliman moved Cebu, Iloilo and Bacolod to give art talks.

Visit www.shell.com.ph

Celebrating sculptural diversity

By Jessica Jaiaschanz Rudolfino
CONTRIBUTOR

ON SHOW AT THE ART CENTER OF Megamall is a must-see presentation of sculptures. For its sixth anniversary offering, Gallery Blue has gathered pieces by the country's prominent and promising sculptors.

Dubbed "Perfect Form," the exhibit runs until Sept. 19 and features the works of Napoleon Abueva, Bal Arteaganer, Geary Arano, Gabby Barredo, Arnel Beltiz, Michael Cacnio, Florante Caedo, Rene Capulo, Ike Castrillo, Ray Dee and Dale Gustavson, Roel B. Farral, Merlito Gayo, Jose Joel Inaco, Pete Jumilla, Mike Libatique, Salvador Lim, Lee Mondejar, Ramon Orlina, Eddie Peralta, Dan Rarela, Tet Sarmiento, Bonifacio Silayan and his Visible.

Notable in the classical detail of Angel Inasa's bronze "Holy Timeline" is the suggestion of God the Father, which the artist says depicts perfectionism. The weight in pieces on rendering emotions perhaps speaks of the artist's struggle against criticism or judgmentalism, an affliction that may lead to loss of vision. Though the artwork does not mar his art-making, one can only anticipate future works in which his hands would be guided not by vision, but raw emotion.

With mangled limbs as medium, Capulo's contribution takes on stark normality. The metal's tender is lopsided. Christmas trim. What looks like an angel on top is actually the victor, its position signifying triumph over his fellow butchers—or, who else each other down, ugly and tortured in their power to bargain chalk.

"CHARKING for Force," by Rene Capulo

"LOVERS" I, by Luis Cinco

The subsequent incarnation of God's chosen, in "Rapture" is interpreted by Michael Garcia in a figure floating upwards, its arms spread downward. Constructed with brass wires soldered together randomly, it implies the dissolution of the body, perhaps is perhaps the sudden disappearance which is said to be the way by which the blessed rise shall join the almighty.

Another classic mortal subject is Jaranera, whose "Nalia Redhorse y Retreat," "Enchantress" and "Mandala Inc." are interesting works, a departure from his previous works of rough, dark steel.

Lucio Salvador with his "Lifelong Angles" showcases the other side of fragility, juxtaposing bicycle parts, wire tacks and cloth as steel sculptures. His sculptures of a person sexually under-sexed, an object of existing what the artists calls multidimensional.

The use of found objects is seen in the pieces of Arneparte who has a knack for taking brass and copper shavings wrap, turning them into his undiscovered nerve on

"LIBERATING Angles," by Lino Salvador

"TRINITY," by Jose Sulit Inaco

"HOT PRAYER," by Ramon Orlina

disorders. His winged insects in flight or atop bobbing plants also have a following. Here, his most endearing range of conglomerations includes a kitchen and Child, and myriad vehicles ("3-wheeler" and "Pedicab").

Glasses tinted/concentrated by Dikaio is paying depth of birds and the clarity of mind in "My Prayer." The rounded contours imply the restful Buddhist one experiences while one is in meditation.

Rounded too, are the figures of Jeb Dinah's "Lovers." Cast marble finished in aged bronze, it portrays an embrace where the couple seems to meld into one another's entire, showing Love's commonness.

The selection spans the classical and the contemporary. The basics of carving, molding and assemblage are present, the combined use of them and mixed media strong within the bodies of artworks found. It is a space that is a fitting homage to these dimensional arts.

E-mail the author at mgo@gmail.com

Pananaw women artists at GSIS

"DOMINION" (color) I, by Andrea Domingo

THE PANANAW ART GROUP'S THIRD exhibit entitled "Pahag Bahay at Bagay Bagay" is running at the GSIS Museo ng Sining.

The exhibit showcases the latest works, mostly in acrylic, of six women artists. The collection consisting of basic interiors, landscapes and seascapes, gardens, flowers, still lifes, portraits, religious touchstones and moments set upon new vistas for the heart and the imagination. The eyes the ladies record their enchantment to floral blooms in prose of self-expression, combined with multidisciplinary craftsmanship, universal beauty and imagination.

Lawyer-Dentist "Dove" Badiang-Salayo is chair of the Philippine Retirement Authority and moving spirit behind Pananaw.

The other artists are Elsalina "Elsie" G. Alday, Gloria "Gia-Gia" A.P. Enriquez, Andrea "Dodi" D. Domingo, Irene Agustin-Evangelista, commissioner and Pananaw's congressman from 1992 to 1995, Elizabeth "Beth" Hontiveros-Baraz, and Dr. Elena Reed, an anesthesiologist.

The Pananaw Art Group is sponsored by Pananaw sa Kabuhayan Foundation, Inc., an organization of women achievers that provides livelihood assistance and technical training.

The GSIS Museo ng Sining is at the ground floor of the GSIS Financial Center, Roxas City. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday. Call (632) 551-...

"FLOWERS," by Elizabeth Pabico

"HIGAD GIR," by Elmar Perez

"PAPER Garden" I, by Carolina Salayo

"SIKIGAMAN," by Pancho Pinon

THE CHURCHILL Gallery presents Rico and Melanie Hizon's "Through the Painter's Eye" on Sept. 13-18 in Megamall-A, featuring the Hizons' collection of 29 works from the country's premiere and young artists, the exhibit is for the benefit of Lunsy Paras Foundation and PEARL Pilot Rehabilitation Foundation.

Doctolero and Hildawa at Blue Room, Manalang and Arellano at West, Piano in Naga

VISUAL ARTS

RIVERBANK DOCTOLERO HOUSE OF Luzviminda Hildawa is up to "skin," Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 at the Blue Room Gallery, 1009 Lacuna cor Adelantado Sts., Ermita, Malate (Tel.). The exhibit features abstract paintings from the to the human body reflects an autopsy or inquiry for art. Hildawa represented the Philippines in the Venice Biennale 2003 and is a recipient of the Thirteen Artists Award. Doctolero is a graduate of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts (Philippine Art Awards 2002) and teaches in the College of Fine Arts of the Technological University of the Philippines. Greats of France in the opening reception are Romeo Rumbaua, Jr., Mary Antonette Palacio of Technical International Philippines. Call (0917) 8...

PEP Manalang and Cato Arellano merge their contrasting styles in show for NOW together, "Convergence-Divergence." Nothing short of wonderful in mixed media, acrylic and assemblages are the show's centers at West Gallery, Rizal Avenue, SC cor. Sept. 15-Oct. 1. Call (0920) 414-0211.

BEER, artist Pancho Piano is showing, his abstract works in assemblage at the Refaliscent Festival at Naga City on Sept. 16-18. His "Dialogues" is on exhibit at the Alba Cuenca Hotel. A highlight of the show of this Master Teacher, as signified by the fully acrylic collection of the body, title "Vocabulary" series. A celebrity after signing other Refaliscent works is shown at the Bicolano Mo "Tinubong-an," also other Bicolano artists depicts the transitive effects magic in the Mile and Bas Collection. Piano will host an exhibit at the Ayala Museum Escape on Sept. 20 Oct. 20.

"SUBLIME! Impressions" showcases the variety of homeowners and architects done to art. The exhibit was curated by Ed. T. of Fred Alba Estate. EDIFICE Towers Ayala Ave. cor. Mt. Alba Cuenca St. Makati. Participating artists are Arnel Ho, Lorenzo Reyes, Ida Robles-Ching, Joy Chua, Susan Aquilino and Mylen Ba...

THE CONSULLERS made such a strong impression on Gregory Habitchel he is once again paying homage to the pioneering artists' group at West Gallery in Megamall-A. On view on Sept. 15-21, "Homage to the Pioneers of the Philippine Conceptual II" features 10 conceptual portraits in watercolor on paper. Call (0...

HERMA Gallery assembles its "Hard Hearts Penalty" the first colored mixed lithographs of Philippine birds since 1886 century with the objects combined on bamboo pipes made from bamboo. The exhibit runs on Sept. 11-Oct. 13 at 1000 Arnaiz Avenue, Makati. Call (0...

"THE SECTION 10" Art Club holds a group exhibition "Balanse" until Sept. 21 at the ground floor lobby of Palacio Orestes Ojeda de Bernardo Sr. Makati.

SEN. Manila presents "TV" until Sept. 21 at Bonifacio Gallery, 12 Bonifacio St. cor. Lontoc St., Cubao, QC. The exhibit is a collection of Filipinos's recent paintings that have been acclaimed abroad. The exhibit showcases the artworks of Ronaldo Joaquin, Jose Joel Inaco, Rodel Tapaya and Ronald Ventura.

FEAT. University's College of Architecture and Fine Arts recently launched the Filipino Arts and Architecture exhibition celebrations of Buwan ng Wika. The show unveils only members featured from all paintings, silkscreens, sketches, photos of modern houses and contemporary public sculptures/spaces nationwide.

ALCOVE Photo Gallery will hold Salon Ivar Studio Workshop Lighting Photography on Sept. 11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. To be conducted by Jay Morato. It is a specialized course on commercial photography for small products. Call (632) 833-...

DRIVEN as the Arellano Art Gallery set Joel Mariano's abstract masterpiece, oil-based paint on paper. Dubbed as "Racial Works," the homecoming exhibit features the Mass Media-based artist's campaign to cultivate thoughts and feeling with Designs of primitive, Mesopotamian—pictorial, linguistic and numinous—generate their power in the interconnectedness of the common, resulting in highly charged works that are at once visceral and lyrical, beckoning sense of silliness with turbulent gestures of color, the narrative, the subtext. Mariano has created noticeable angst in the topographic of our lives. Arellano Art Gallery is located at G. F. 1668 EK Harrison St. Pasay City (fronting Gideon Academy). Call (0...

Top regional art contest reformatted

By Constantino C. Tejero

THE REFORMATTING OF THE Philip Morris Asean Art Awards was recently announced by Chris Nelson, managing director of Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. (PMPMI), in a luncheon press conference at Shoreline.

Nelson said the competition would now be only national instead of regional. That is, it will be limited within a particular country and not proceed on a final leg in a host Asean city with winners from all Southeast Asian nations competing.

Nelson cited "institutional constraints" as reason for the pullout of PMPMI sponsorship of the regional competition.

Also, a new prize structure has been implemented. The Grand Prize winner will receive P300,000, and four Juror's Choice winners will get P150,000 each. The five winning artists will each receive a trophy and an all-expense paid trip to Hong Kong.

Danny Alvarez, project consultant of the Philippine Art Awards (PAA), said the trip would be beneficial to the artists as they would find linkages with museums in Hong Kong for their works.

Here on its 11th year, "the premier visual art competition in the country" just keeps growing. Nelson said there had been 574 entries last year, and 756 this year.

The PAA competition is open to all Filipino artists 35 years old and above. Only one entry from each artist is allowed, and any theme or subject may be explored. Any medium is acceptable, but the work must be two-dimensional and well-framed, ready for exhibition, framed if appropriate, and has a proper hanging system.

The work must be original and not more than two years old. Works that have been exhibited are eligible, but not those that have been entered in any competition. Deadlines for submission of entries are Oct. 11-19 for provincial entries, and Oct. 21 for Manila entries.

Thirty semifinalists will vie for the prizes, "tightening the competition and making the playing field more competitive."

Exhibition of the 30 artworks opens on Nov. 17 during the awarding ceremony at the Ayala Museum. They will be exhibited in three key cities from January to March 2006.

Just before the Philippine Art Awards 2005 was officially launched, PMPMI corporate affairs director Rupin Shroff acknowledged the presence at the luncheon of past Asean Art Awards winners Alfredo Saguil, 1995 Grand Prize in Indonesia; Ferdinand Doctolero, 1996 Juror's Choice in Indonesia; Nona Garcia, 2000 Grand Prize in Singapore; Norman Bryce, 2000 Juror Choice in Singapore; and Benjamin Hayda, 2001 Juror's Choice in Indonesia.

Unarched over their lunch on two tables, these artists looked quite young, unassuming, rather shy. And they were the ones who did the country proud.

PHILIP Morris Phils. corporate affairs director Rupin Shroff, Philip Morris managing director Chris Nelson and project consultant Danny Alvarez at the Philippine Art Awards 2005 official launch

ST. SCHOLASTICA'S College Chamber Orchestra

Concert marks Benedictine sisters' centenary

TO MARK THE MILLENNIUM Benedictine Sisters' 100 years of operations in the Philippines, a concert of classical music will be held on Sept. 14, 8:30 p.m. at St. Cecilia's Hall in St. Scholastica's College.

The event will feature performances by young artists from the Philippine Branch for Developing Instrumental Soloists (Pride), faculty members, alumnae and the SSC Chamber Orchestra.

The Pride Children's Ensemble opens the concert with Bach's Concerto in D minor for Two Violins, conducted by Mary-Grace Martinez. Vivaldi's Concerto for Four Violins in B minor will be played by Donna Ganva Duang, Rochelle Alcantara, Ms. Socorro Uzon and Michelle Soque, and conducted by Melchora Regina Medina.

The Manila Symphony Orchestra conducted by Arturo Molina will play Beethoven's Triple Concerto with Mary Antonette Espino on piano, Melchora Regina Medina on violin and Antoni Josef Isaacs on cello.

Benedictine monk and UST Conservatory of Music professor Fr. Manuel P. Maranhao, Jr. OSB featured soloist in J. Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor.

Concluding the concert will be John Rutter's canticle of the Virgin Mary, The Magnificat, for soprano or mezzo-soprano solo, mixed choir and orchestra.

The Ateneo College Glee Club and the Manila Boys Chorus will join the SSC Chorale class. High School Glee Club and SSC alumnae for the grand finale to be conducted by Ms. Lourdes S. Ocampo.

Guests of honor are Sen. Blessie Villar, Rep. Cynthia Villar and former President Cory Aquino.